



強制的に

犬猿の仲の

伯爵令嬢は

エリート騎士と

つかい
に
させ
られる

茜 たま Tama Akane
illust 鈴宮ユニコ

MELISSA



国のために
大嫌いなアイツと
つがいになるなんて!

強制的に

犬猿の仲の

伯爵令嬢は

エリート騎士と

かきこわされてる

エリート騎士様
×
強気伯爵令嬢の
身体から始まる
ロマンチック
ラブファンタジー!

キャラクター原案:

コミック

鈴宮ユニコ

原作

茜たま

Chapter 1: The First Night

“... Tiana, relax.

Adele says, looking down at me.

A body lined with trained muscles, from tight shoulders to chest and abdomen.

The hard, hot member in the center was pressed against the back of my open legs.

“It's impossible ... ! It's too big, pull it out and make it smaller ...!”

He shakes his head

“It's too late, idiot.”

He spoke with a pang in his voice, if he continued moving, he would enter me.

Adele and I have been attending the same school since we were six years old, and that was the extent of our relationship. Of course, we were never lovers, but rather, people who couldn't get along at all, a disagreeable pair ...

Now that we're 18 years old, we were about to cross this irreversible line.

In the Skinia Empire-a mighty monarchy that has been trying to dominate the western half of the continent for ages- there was once a separate kingdom at the tip of the continent.

The Principality of Arita- our beautiful homeland which had an open harbor and prospered independently in peace- had remained neutral as it was very small.

The Principality eventually accepted control with little resistance to the invasion of the Empire.

It's been 12 years since then.

The sons and daughters, who were former aristocrats of the Principality of Arita, were assimilated into the Imperial education system. The main aristocratic heirs all entered the "Great Imperial Academy" built in the former capital of the Principality, at the age of six.

Over the next 12 years, each recognizable skill would be refined and developed into a useful human resource for the empire.

The final stage of the training is in the spring of our 18th year.

Held a month before graduation from the Imperial Academy called an "adult ceremony".

At the castle of the former Arita Lord, now used by officials and the military dispatched from the Empire.

Spring, when flowers bloom in the garden of the castle.

I, Tiana Klein, was heading to a specific room in this castle.

There are small but beautifully decorated doors that used to be rooms for knights who served the Lord.

I opened one of them without knocking.

A bay window facing the courtyard in the back of the room.

A young man with dark blonde hair, sitting on a large sofa with one knee over the other, leans back and looks out the bay window.

He glances at me with a sour attitude.

We hold gazes for a moment before ... sigh.

"Why are you my partner ... "

Adele says with a tired tone.

"Ha, I was just about to ask the same thing."

I return.

We both sigh again.

“I don’t think I’ll ever get it up with you ... “

“Same here! You’re ... “

Somehow I feel like I have to respond with some obscene words, and I think about it for a moment, but I keep my mouth shut. Even though it has fallen, I still have pride as a Countess.

“ ... Nevermind, I give up.”

Adele raises his eyebrows and laughs like a fool at my small mutter.

“Are you starting with that crushed attitude?”

“Do you have any complaints?”

“How immature.”

Very fitting of him--

I inadvertently stepped on the ground directly in front of him, trying desperately to suppress my anger.

Tonight, I have to be embraced by this man.

To bear a child by pairing with a match decided by the upper ranks of the Empire.

That is the rule of the “adult ceremony” that is imposed on all the aristocratic heirs who turn 18.

It’s our turn tonight. When we were six years old, we had a lot of fights whenever we saw each other. Always fighting until we were 10 years old. That was when we were separated into groups of men and women. I’ve taken good care of myself since.

Now I must offer my virginity to him.

Chapter 2: The Adult Ceremony Begins

Adele sits on the sofa by the window.

I stand in front of him.

Time passes without a word, and I notice that the sunset is coming in from outside the window where Adele gazes.

From there, one can see the windows of the many rooms that are lined up in the same way facing the courtyard.

In each of those windows today, our classmates are similarly forced into couples and ordered to have their first night together, regardless of their feelings.

When I think about that fact, I feel like puking and approach the window.

Ignoring Adele, who looks up at me with a demon glare, I reach out to avoid his body and close the window curtain.

“There’s no point looking outside since it’s useless. The pairs have already been decided.”

Former Countess of the Principality of Arita, I, Tiana Klein, was recognized as a “civilian” at the age of 12.

I had secretly admired the few female knights who fought on the frontlines, but I calmly accepted that it would require horse-riding and swordsmanship that had to surpass the skills of all the other boys.

Because of this, considering the skills that could be relatively useful on the front-lines among civilians, at the age of 15 I selected a course to study medicine.

It was decided that I would go on to medical school at the Imperial University after graduation, which is located in the largest city of the kingdom.

And Adele.

He is the eldest son of the Berger family, a former Viscount of the Principality of Arita.

Just the same, he studied at the Great Imperial Academy and, of course, is attached to the top group of the “military attaché” course and the Knight course, which is the most elite among them.

**I don’t know what he’ll do after graduation, but many of the previous top-ranked students first belonged to the Knights of the neighboring city, gained practical experience, and eventually went on to the Imperial capital’s career elite course.
Somehow it makes me sick.**

Anyway, we have a fixed course, and before anything else, we have to finish this ritual without delay to live peacefully in this Empire.

“Listen here, I don’t care what you want to do after graduation, but for the sake of our future we have to overcome this, whatever ... this ritual, tonight. If you say you can’t, they’ll take it as rebellion. So let’s treat it like it’s a small matter, alright?!”

“I know-”

Adele says tiredly.

“-That’s ... I don’t think it’s just to prevent free love but also political marriages between houses and completely manage them ... to suppress their gain of power through political marriage, or maybe to develop and manage excellent human resources. This Empire is crazy.”

“If they catch you saying that you’ll be imprisoned!”

12 years ago, the Prince of Arita wisely opened the castle without difficulty, causing no major loss to the people or land of the Principality, and everyone became accustomed to the political system of the Empire relatively quickly.

But again, the old “marriage system” was abolished and completely overtaken. Turning into the “system” that had a large backlash by those who were around the age of 18 that year. So the Empire imprisoned all those who rebelled.

The aristocrats, who were further deprived of their succession by the Empire’s power, had no choice but to accept the Empire with this system as if pulling out the fangs of a feral animal.

**I think we're still better than the 18-year-olds of that year.
Since the age of six, we have lived with the understanding that we will
never be connected to our favorite partner by our own free will.**

**However, the hits and misses are commonplace, so there are still
many who dislike the system.**

**There are those who are happy to have children from their unrequited
love of many years! And, in other cases, the first-grade beauty is
paired with the first-grade beast, causing a huge ruckus.**

Anyway!

**"We don't like each other. We've established that ok? But let's think
about the future now. Tonight, we can think of it as a job, an obligation
and kill our hearts. It's like a tragic accident. There are some things in
life that you just have to overcome. Do you understand?"**

Adele sighs and unties his crossed legs.

"I'm prepared to succumb."

I think it's a little rude to be told as much, but it can't be helped. I nod.

" ... Ok"

**Standing up, he begins to untie his belt. He wears a loose white shirt
over black trousers.**

Looking at me with a stunned face he speaks,

"Take yours off, too."

**When I look away, I notice a big bed near the wall ... one that could
accommodate two people.**

"mum ... "

My chest bounces and my face turns red.

I desperately rub my cheeks to deceive him and appear calm and collected.

If I can think of it as surgery. A surgery that I must perform in order to live in this country, and I'll have to be the doctor here. (basically taking charge)

It was embarrassing, humiliating, but better for the long run.

It's not about our feelings.

I take a deep breath and begin to untie the bodice of the dress I was wearing.

My seniors told me that I shouldn't wear clothes that unfasten from the back, since few boys know how, or will, take them off, so it was better to wear clothes that you can put on and off by yourself.

Loosening the bodice I begin to remove the hook on the side of the dress.

When I look over, Adele is shirtless, sitting on the bed with only his pants on, he begins to remove his shoes.

Adele's expression is completely plain, and his calmness is very disappointing.

I use my quivering fingers to unhook the dress.

After I hang my dress on the couch, all I have to wrap around my body is a thin silk chemise ... an unreliable fabric that covers everything from my breast to just under my knees.

Desperately pretending to be calm, I approach the bed, changing direction to stay in Adele's blind spot as much as possible.

Adele, sitting on the bed with his pants on, looks at me with a quizzical brow.

"What's with the suspicious behavior?"

"It can't be helped!"

I yelp, climbing to the top of the bed as far away from Adele as possible, and sit upright at the edge.

Silence flows between us.

"Let's begin ... "

Adele mutters with a sigh and looks at me.

The moonlight shining through the curtains and the light of the lamps at the entrance of the room highlight Adele's unreadable expression. Adele stands up, takes three strides around the bed, and sits next to me. I can see Adele's chest in front of me, and when I try to back up, I almost fall out of bed. Adele reaches out and grabs my upper arm. I feel his hot breath close by.

Chapter 3: Both Think Differently

Adele's hand ... a big hand, grabs my upper arm and pulls it lightly so that I don't fall off the bed, then his fingers move toward my shoulders. I can't stand it and close my eyes.

The other hand touches the nape of my neck and lightly lifts my chin, brushing my hair aside ... I feel his soft breathing next to my mouth for a moment, but then ... nothing happens.

"No ... kissing is too much."

He mutters to himself.

I'm glad it's dark since I know that I've turned red.

"Oh, that's right. No kissing ... that should be saved for the person you like!"

Adele turns, tired and leaning back, rubbing his right index finger into his ear, saying yes, yes.

"But you sure did grow a lot."

At Adele's words, I reflexively hide my chest, the tips peeking through the almost transparent cloth.

"What are you hiding for? It's not like this is the first time."

"Uh, that's ..."

When my words get stuck, Adele grins.

"Maybe it is your first time? Seeing and touching."

"Well, it's only natural?! What about you ..."

"I'm pretty normal."

Adele replies.

Even if the Empire forces you into a pair, there are times when you just can't have a romantic relationship with that person.

With so many cases, businesses sprung up. Places where adults could spend the night enjoying a pseudo-romance, and it was openly

recognized in the Empire (the government is quiet about it since high taxes can be imposed).

I've heard rumors that some young people come and go before the adult ceremony, too.

"That ... Those in the Knight course are too much! What's normal?-idiot."

"It's reasonable, isn't it? It'd be miserable if you fail your first time in the adult ritual, and seniors need practice."

"You can often go there even though you like Cornelia-sama."

At my words, Adele opens his eyes widely and stares at me.

"What was that?"

"It isn't like that? But you've always loved Cornelia-sama since you were six years old. Maybe you've been working hard, hoping that you could be partnered with her."

Adele suddenly turns to the side. Thinking I'll be disappointed with his reaction again I then notice something.

His ears are red.

When I open my mouth to say something.

"You too."

A nasty smile on Adele's face turns and looks at me.

"Julius, I mean."

Suddenly my cheeks get hot. My heart pounds faster.

Cornelia was the last princess of our conquered country.

Originally, we would have served her.

And Julius ... Julius Khan is the son of the Captain of the Knights who served the Duke of Arita for generations ...

Both are the same age as us.

Classmates who have been attending the Imperial Academy since we were six years old.

“Wah, I ... I’ve only ever admired Julius-sama ...”

“I’m the same.”

“Liar-”

I know the meaning behind the gentle and sad looks Adele gives to Cornelia.

“-Even though you liked her ... even then?”

Cornelia-sama and Julius-sama were the pair everyone aspired to become.

That was the biggest surprise of this year’s adult ceremony groups, and the classmates made a fuss.

I’m sure it will continue to be a story handed down as a sliver of hope for the juniors.

“... If so-”

Adele grabbed my shoulders and laid me back on the bed roughly.

“It doesn’t matter to us anymore. If you don’t like it, just close your eyes and pretend you’re with Julius.”

“Then you can pretend I’m Cornelia--”

I didn’t finish my sentence as Adele roughly pulled down my chemise and groped my breasts, sucking the tips.

Adele briefly stopped and looked down at me.

“Shut up already.”

I couldn’t speak through his scary, cold eyes. Keeping his gaze, Adele dropped his lips on my chest again.

Chapter 4: Call Me Julius

**Adele, who pushed me down into the bed, put one hand on my chest and put his lips on the tip of the other.
His tongue fluttered and struck the bud.**

“Hmmm ...”

**A chilling feeling spread from the tip of my chest to the rest of my body,
I thought I heard a strange sound, only to realize that it was a voice coming from my throat, my cheeks went hot.**

While licking the tip of my chest with his tongue, Adele looked up at me and grinned.

“What an erotic voice.”

“Aah, that is!!!! Just a reflex!!!”

“Why so formal?”

With a laugh, Adele pulls down the rest of the chemise from my torso. I couldn't say anything, but I didn't want to be seen as upset, and I wanted to look like I was cooperating with the ritual properly, so I lifted my hips so that I could easily take off the rest while hiding my trembling body.

But when it was pulled off my legs and I had nothing to wear, the soft air caressed over my whole body, I immediately became embarrassed and closed my thighs tightly.

Adele gradually ran his lips from the beads on my chest, to the thin skin of my sternum, to my navel and hips.

“Surprisingly, you have quite the woman's body.”

He laughed with a jerk.

“In the old days, you used to run around with a completely flat chest.”

“Hmm ... that was... !”

I look at Adele in a daze.

“Don’t you remember? When we were 4 or 5 years old ... I think it was when there was a party at some house on the beach, but you hated your swimsuit and went into the sea naked. At that time, I thought, ‘What a brave person.’”

What’s that ... I don’t remember at all ... But is he really saying that in this situation now! ??

(I don't know who speaks first)

“I remember ... there was a time you placed a lot of roses on Cornelia’s desk, it made a huge fuss and I challenged you to a duel.”

“Shut up.”

Tired, Adele sighs and murmurs.

“I thought it was cute ... “

He thought it was cute so he wanted to give them to Cornelia?

I brushed off my memory as if I had taken the head of a demon, (I think it’s meant to be like brushing off a bad memory?) I felt awkward so I stayed quiet.

Adele sighs again.

His hand holds the small of my back.

“Okay ... Tiana-”

He whispers.

“-From here on, I’ll be touching your ... deeper parts and it might hurt ... in order to pour my ... seed there. It’s for the sake of continuing to live in this Empire. We’re prepared.”

Adele’s words seemed to make me cry, and I turned to the side so that he couldn’t see my face.

“I know ... I’ll have a physical examination tomorrow, and I’ve been prepared ... I’m not worried about it anymore.”

“If it’s too hard, you can call me Julius.”

What was that for?

I almost cried and bit my lips tightly so that Adele wouldn't notice.

" ... I see. You can call me Cornelia-sama, then."

"I'm not gonna call you anything."

I know, of course. There is a big difference between Cornelia and me, after all.

Adele gently skims over my thighs up to my knees. Unintentionally, my tightly closed legs lose their strength.

At that moment, Adele pushes his body between my legs.

When I look up again, I begin to wonder when he'd taken off the rest of his clothes as Adele's lower body was now exposed, and he was putting his hand on his manhood, ready to put it inside me.

"mum, You sure it'll fit ...? Adele ..."

Knowing it's a ridiculous thing to say as a Countess, I still ask.

" With your kind of body, I'm sure you can handle it."

As I was distracted by Adele using a small muttering voice, he took the chance to press against me.

Chapter 5: Seal This Forever

“It hurts, pull it out and make it smaller!”

Adele replied, “I can’t,” to my cry, but when I saw that it wasn’t possible as it was tense now, I tried to settle down.

In order to relieve some of the pain, I gripped my ankles.

My legs were wide open and it almost stopped my heart.

“Well, and ...”

“I’ll have to lick.”

He says, putting a finger on the tightly closed folds, opening the entrance, and bringing his face closer in.

“No, stop!!!”

A screaming voice comes out unintentionally.

Adele stops moving.

“That’s no good ... we don’t like each other ...”

“You ...”

Adele, who sat up, looks at me with stunningly cold eyes.

“Are you still saying that at this point? You’re too stiff...”

“I’m sorry ... but ...”

“Is it because of Julius?”

“I can’t do it, I can’t do it, it’s completely different.”

Adele became frustrated at my crying.

“Then do you want me to force it in?”

Slowly, I sit up and a hard, wet object is pressed against me again.

He grabs my hips, which I try to pull back by reflex, Adele’s hand doesn’t let go.

At that time, I realize that he was kind enough to proceed.

Adele’s member presses against me, who couldn’t pull away anymore.

Adele opens the entrance with one hand and looks down at me

“Let’s start... close your eyes and think of Julius.”

To put it briefly, before I could rebut... he came in ... pushing forward ... and forward ...

Mum.... ..

It feels like I’m breaking open and on fire.

When I open my eyes and look at Adele, he looks back with a worried expression.

Are you worried?

He covers my eyes with his right hand.

“If you’re about to cry, close your eyes.”

I see, am I crying ...?

Adele continues inside me. Shaking his hips slowly and slowly.

“Hmm ... Hmm ...”

The leaked voice doesn’t feel like my own. Is it crying or not ...

It’s hot down there, it’s hot behind my eyes, my head is spinning.

“Relax... I’ll finish it as soon as possible.”

Adele briefly says, out of breath.

“Ah ... hmmm ...”

Adele, who pushes all the way back, and starts to move slowly.

In the deepest part of me, somewhere I have never touched.

A part of my body, a person who is neither a lover nor a husband and who doesn’t even think about it, rubbed.

The inside changes into the shape of Adele.

“Hmm ...”

**Adele breaths out. Inside, when he rubbed a part of my wall with a crunch, I was about to lose my strength and my hips bucked.
“Hmm ... Hmm ...”**

**We’ve been on bad terms all this time.
If we met face to face, we’d just fight.
From the age of six to the age of 18.**

We insisted on the opposite of what the other did, confrontations over Cornelia, and even quarreled again when he teased me about Julius and I being a nice couple.

Until the age of 10, we quarreled with each other, however, when I was 11 years old, I was struck by Adele. I wandered and fell into the river.

Since then, Adele has never raised a hand against me, even if our fighting went overboard.

Adele, Adele.

Adele goes back and forth inside me. Gradually the speed increases and when I open my eyes with an exhaling voice, I hold my breath to hold back something.

Squelch-squelch, a nasty sound.

Adele ...

Another tear that I should have endured earlier comes out.

**I,
I’ve always loved Adele ...**

The adult ceremony is over

I had my first night with the person I love, but I’ve decided to seal this love forever.

Chapter 6: Day After The Ritual

“Tiana Klein ... Yes, of course. It’s about the aftermath of the adult ceremony, isn’t it?”

The next day.

During a physical examination for female students at the Imperial Academy, I was examined by a female doctor in a private room.

“But... It doesn’t look like you’re pregnant yet ... anyways, have patience.”

The female doctor looks at me with a complex smile that seems to know everything as she speaks slowly.

The interview was pushed a lot longer than expected.

Perhaps it was a part of the job to help process the complex emotions of the many schoolgirls.

Poor teacher, I smiled and left the room with only a thank you.

I still think there could be residue.

After all, Adele was here ... I can’t believe that part of Adele was inside me.

It feels like a dream.

“Tia!”

From the other side of the corridor, a beautiful schoolgirl walks with her golden hair fluttering.

She calls my name and smiles like a flower.

“Cornelia-sama!”

I call her back and rush over. Behind her, several aristocratic students who have always studied together appear.

It’s kind of embarrassing to think that everyone passed the first night

together.

“Tia, were you okay?”

From behind Cornelia, a red-haired girl ... Ella worries and nods to the others.

In this year’s ritual, the most difficult pairing was Adele and me, the well-known “fighting like cats-and-dogs” duo.

I wrinkled my nose tightly.

“It was the worst experience of my life. I don’t ever want to remember it.”

Everyone smiles as if they were expecting that response.

“Cornelia-sama’s experience was probably better than mine.”

At my words, the girls giggled out, and everyone started walking with a floaty feeling.

As I walked along with them, I glanced at Cornelia walking next to me. As long as Cornelia is there, the Principality of Arita will never be destroyed.

Smooth skin like white porcelain. Blonde hair that shines brightly in the light. Rosy lips were moist as if wet with morning dew.

Her kindness of dealing with anyone without discrimination.

I think of how beautiful she is.

I have always liked Cornelia-sama.

I flicked my slightly peculiar maroon hair on my shoulders with my fingertips and sighed softly.

“Julius!!”

Cornelia raises her gorgeous voice.

In the back of the corridor, we can see a group of students in white uniforms, which is only allowed for students selected for the Knight course.

“Julius, would you like to come to our house tonight? You can have dinner with me ... and my father will be happy to see you, too.”

Julius looks at Cornelia, who speaks happily, with his gentle eyes.

Even in the Knight course, with many tall students, Julius is by far the tallest.

He bends down a little and looks at Cornelia with a gentle expression. The ash-tinted hair gently waves and his green eyes underneath shimmer.

With Cornelia there, they seem... as if sprung out from a beautiful painting ...

We fall in love with the beautiful image before us.

“Julius.”

Another shadow comes out from behind Julius.

My heart jumps.

Just half a day ago, Adele was out of bed with me. Now dressed in a white uniform, as usual, hazel eyes were cold under his dark blonde hair. Still, he shines.

“We’re going first.”

He says, slipping by us with the students of the other Knight courses following behind.

As he passes next to me, he bends over next to my ear.

My chest is throbbing and I try to keep my cheeks from getting hot.

“You’re staring too much, you should be careful from now on.”

He warns in a whisper and leaves.

Really.

Does it look like that ...

It’s ironic.

I’m sure Adele will never know my true feelings.

“What did he say just now? Are you two okay?”

Ella asks.

“Only the usual bickering. Even if we get paired, nothing will change in our relationship.”

The other girls gather around us.

“But we still have to obey whenever our partner calls for it.”

“That’s right, the whole purpose is to have a child.”

“I wonder if I can do better ...”

Everyone talks quietly and shyly.

That’s nice. Practically everybody else seems to have had a good night.

I’m----

I've been...

I've always liked Adele for so long that I don't know when it started.

I couldn't be honest even once, and we always end up in a fight.

And most importantly, I knew that Adele had been looking at Cornelia with longing eyes since we were kids.

So I don't think it's easy for Adele to like anyone else.

Rather, I'd hoped Adele had a chance to connect with Cornelia.

So it wasn't something I was happy with, let alone Adele, when we were paired.

It's better to say that we're just classmates from a similar hometown and that we don't get along.

Next month we will graduate from this school and leave for our own paths.

I feel this will be easier for me.

And unlike everyone else, I'll never be called by Adele again.

At least, that's what I thought.

The next night, Adele called for me.

Chapter 7: The Second Meeting

Adele called me into a separate room in the academy's dormitory.

The private rooms are not always what's used ... Any room can be used as a meeting place for those who've completed the "adult ceremony".

Of course, though, this was my first time setting foot here.

Adele comes in after me, wandering around the room, a simpler version of the "adult ceremony" room used the day before. He loosens his trousers that are even rougher this time around. The suspenders are a cute touch, though.

"What happened? Did something go wrong?"

I asked, needing to get to the bottom of this.

"Is it okay if you're not with Cornelia-sama? Cornelia-sama isn't the kind of person who pries into the details of the rituals. I haven't said anything either, so don't worry ..."

"Strip."

Adele speaks frankly as if wanting to talk over me.

I didn't understand the meaning of his words, so I shook my head and responded, "What?"

"You're not pregnant. We'll try again, so strip."

"Wait a minute, Adele !!"

I used a louder voice than I intended.

Adele, who had the suspenders off his arm, looked at me.

"Hey, I know you're very serious about work, but you don't have to put in that much effort here?"

I know.

Adele is the type to be able to do anything without much effort and is often disliked for this, but in fact, he has worked harder than anyone else.

However, this is enough. Adele.

"You see, I ... After graduating from the academy, I've decided to go on to the medical field of the Imperial University, and my father and mother have already expressed their support for me ... So having to stay here and raise my children ... Well, it's not ideal."

In fact, few of the girls continue in school after graduating.

The majority choose a life in which they raise their paired children at home.

The other person often leaves town, occasionally coming back to see them.

"That's why I don't have to have children. I'll live as a female doctor."

I was surprised to hear my own words.

"Maybe you want a child ...? You are the eldest son, after all..."

That was a problem. Indeed, as long as we're paired, Adele can't have legitimate children other than with me.

In addition, I often hear that the Empire pays the couples that have children. Maybe Adele is aiming for that ...?

I lost myself in thought.

"If it's that, I think there was a law in the Empire to resolve the union, such as filing a lawsuit against the Empire. I don't think it's an easy outcome, though. So it may be difficult for Adele to work in the empire as a knight afterward. If Adele is prepared for that then ..."

"Did you hate it so much?"

I was interrupted by his words and raised my eyes, Adele was glaring at me.

His eyes are serious and his words seem to stick to his throat for a moment.

Suddenly, Adele snickers.

"That's right. You were embraced by someone you hate."

ah.....

When this happens, I lose my words.

Before I can open my mouth to say anything, Adele interrupts.

"I don't care about your feelings, you and I are now bound together. I have a burden to hold you."

Burden.....

Adele laughs lightly when I lose the words to respond.

"Press your hands on the bed. Then we won't have to see each other's faces."

Ignoring my crying expression, Adele turns me around.

He rolls up my skirt and I touch the bed and lean forward.

My bum is pushed up without much effort.

In time ... Adele's finger presses in.

"It's still tough ... You'll get used to it soon."

With cold fingers, he starts rubbing the inner wall slowly.

"Hmm ... mmm ..."

My voice leaks out and I purse my lips.

I remember how Cornelia and Julius were lovey-dovey yesterday afternoon.

Adele was also watching that situation.

I'm overwhelmed with sadness for him.

Cornelia, who he's always loved, is openly friendly with everyone.

On the other hand, he was forced to quarrel with me, someone he's been fighting with for a long time ...

When I think of Adele's feelings, tears being to stream down my cheeks.

"Hey !!"

A slimy thing enters and my hips bounce.

When I look back in amazement, Adele ... Adele is bent over and begins to loosen my entrance with his tongue.

"Well, why did you say it's no good ... huh ..."

My voice leaks and I almost cry.

Such a place.

No matter how much I've been through, I've never imagined it myself.

Adele is licking that, Adele is ...

"It doesn't feel soft and comfortable."

Adele says, letting go.

To be comfortable and to be ... Treating me like a tool.

Tears almost flow over from misery.

However, because I was licked by Adele, I felt incredibly hot and numb, and there was a flooded mess at the slit.

"Let's start."

Adele presses forward his hardened member.

It came in with a quick momentum.

"Huh ... hmm ...! Ah, wait, hmm ..."

I squeeze the bed sheets tightly.

In the back of my body, a completely different part rubs this time ... I can't help clamping up.

" ... Ku ... It's getting tighter ..."

Adele mutters out of breath, hovering over my body and staying still for a while.

This heat, coming from Adele's body temperature is transmitted from the back, and the connected area gradually raises the heat.

"Feels amazing ... it'll move."

Speaking with a sigh, Adele pulls himself out of me ... just barely stops and then back in again.

Squelch.

"Hey !!"

"Ku ... the tightness, relax ..."

Adele's fingers were a little above the entrance ... he circled my little bulb, which swelled up and gathered heat.

"Hmm! Ah, wait, Adele ... !!!"

An incredible numb stimulus runs from there to my head, and I moan.

Adele holds me down from behind, stroking the little spots, playing, and rubbing inside me.

Adele's movement as he rubs the inside without a break takes my breath away.

"No, no, Adele, ah, Adele, no, anh ..."

"Keep calling me ..."

I think I hear Adele muttering in a faint voice, but was it real?

That night, Adele hugs me again, this time facing each other.

I never kiss him.

Chapter 8: Can't You Leave it to Me?

In the bright sunlight, I was walking in the outer corridor of the Imperial Academy to the library.

On my way to return the books I had used in class.

Suddenly, when I look in the direction of the east gate I notice the students of the Knight course finishing their sword practice and returning from the training grounds.

Without much effort, I find Adele amongst them.

My gaze has been sticking to Adele a lot these days.

Adele walks while chatting with several of his friends.

He's usually cold, doesn't laugh much, and has sharp eyes. So the smile he sometimes shows when he's with his peers is a surprise and very, very cute. He's often called "beautiful but scary" by other girls.

As is the case, my accuracy in finding Adele has improved since our dubious relationship began.

I feel my heart pounding and my chest getting hot, I inadvertently hide behind the pillars in the corridor.

Holding the books to my chest, I adjust my breathing and then adjust my bangs.

Why is my maroon hair so frizzy?

I wish it could flutter in the wind like Cornelia's ...

"Tia."

When I hear a cool voice call out I raise my gaze to notice a tall male student walking towards me from the other side of the corridor.

The royal blue cloak on the white uniform is dazzling on him.

"Julius-sama ...!"

I unconsciously straighten my posture.

Since long ago, that was a normal reaction when anyone stood in front of Julius.

Like a prince who appears in fairy tales, like something I would read in fairytales as a child.

We haven't seen the existence of "Prince's" since the Principality was destroyed, but I'm sure he'd be like Julius.

"What are you up to?"

He takes one quick glance at my entire self hiding behind the pillar then looks in the direction of the east gate and smiles with understanding.

"Are you waiting for Adele? Shall I call him?"

"No, it's for a different--!"

In my hurry, my hand releases the books I was holding. They lose balance and fall all over.

"Oops!"

Julius swiftly catches the books as if there was no gravity.

"Are you going to the library? I'll help you."

"No, it's unthinkable! Aren't you busy?"

Before I could mention the members returning from the sword practice area, Julius quickly takes the rest of the books I had and walks ahead of me. I feel like an inconvenience.

I quickly matched his pace behind him.

"I already took care of my business. I went to the director of the

school."

Julius smiled refreshingly.

"Cornelia was talking about wanting to have a celebration at her mansion before graduation."

"But will they give you permission for such an event?"

"That's why I applied for it as a hand-over event for the next student council leaders. I think it will pass."

"It'll make Cornelia-sama happy too."

Imagining Cornelia's smile has my voice bouncing.

Since the so-called "18-year-old's rebellion" against the pairing system 12 years ago, the Empire has been very cautious about young people gathering in groups. Since then, the numerous evening parties that colored the nights of the Principality were completely hidden.

Julius (also the student council president of our year) is more than capable of arranging a night party for Cornelia ...! !!

"That's Julius-sama for you!"

Julius smiles bitterly at my words.

"Even now, you still use honorifics with me."

That's right, I answer.

"Everyone does, not just Cornelia-sama, but Julius-sama is still Julius-sama, right?" (meaning above everyone else)

"It's a great honor, but I sometimes think ... these days ... ?"

Julius stops and laughs. The light from the garden shines in his hair.

"?"

I angle my head a little and look up at Julius

"I wonder if there was a different future, would you call me just Julius."

Julius smiles a little ... a little lonely as he looks at me.

What does he mean ...

"Tiana."

A low and firm voice calls out. My heart skips a beat as I jerk my head to see Adele standing behind the flowerbed in the courtyard.

The cute smile he had previously worn around his friends disappears, and for some reason, a terribly moody expression takes its place. When he catches me staring, he comes closer, jumping the flowerbed.

"Sorry, Adele. I was helping Tia just now."

"I can do the rest, you can go back now."

Adele assertively takes the books from Julius.

"Let's go."

He orders me before walking away swiftly.

"Huh, w-wait a minute, Adele ... ! This is very rude but please excuse us, Julius-sama!"

Julius waves with a lonely ambience. I was curious about the meaning of the words from earlier, but I was too busy chasing down Adele to think about it.

"Adel, it's fine now, right? I can carry at least this much ..."

**"You can rely on Julius, but you can't leave it to me?"
Adele says without looking back.**

**Feeling annoyed by his tone, I frowned.
What's all this about ...?
I thought about it carefully.**

**The top of the Knight course has heard that Julius and Adele have
been competing for the last few years.
Swordsmanship, equestrian, tactics ... During that time, Adele seems
to have been competing against Julius the most.
It was said that everyone in the Knight course went through this, but I
understand the reason.
All of them must have been hoping to be a knight suitable for Cornelia.**

However, in the end, it was Julius who was paired off with Cornelia.

**It seems he doesn't want to lose to even the smallest things ... even
carrying books to the library.**

**I pondered on bettering Adele's mood and remembered just the right
news.**

**"Hey, I just heard from Julius-sama that Cornelia-sama is holding an
evening party!"**

Adele continues silently.

**"Are you surprised? When was the last time there was such a party?
I'm sure Cornelia-sama will be wearing the rosy dress she got from the
Imperial City the other day. She showed me when she received it. I've
seen it, but will it be to your taste?"**

**We arrive at the library. Adele opens the heavy door and goes inside
first.**

People were in sparse groups, probably because it was break time.

"What will you wear?"

I was surprised when Adele quietly spoke without looking at me.

"What to wear ... I haven't thought about it yet ... maybe I can wear my uniform."

"Julius likes gold lotus flowers more than roses, so I think you should go with that. I like amber myself."

I'm so surprised when Adele utters unexpected words.

I was happy to hear Adele telling me his favorite color was amber (though I might not go with it), but I laugh to hide my excitement.

"That's unexpected ... I thought Julius-sama was the kind of person to find any small roadside flower attractive. Plus ... "

I couldn't help wondering about Julius' favorite color, suddenly my arm was grabbed as I tried to continue.

In the shadow of the bookshelf out of sight from the center area.

Adele silently looks down at me, sandwiching me between the bookshelf.

"Adele ...?"

I ask, Adele leans forward, and ... is he going to kiss me? I close my eyes.

But, as time passed, nothing touched me, and when I open my eyes, Adele turns down and sighs slowly.

Then, behind his long eyelashes looking up at me, a flame was quietly lit.

He rolls up my uniform skirt and puts a finger in the back between

my thighs.

"Eh ... !? You ... "

I've been embraced by Adel many times since then, and I've been completely unraveled, but to do something like this at school during the day, I'm surprised and push Adel's chest back ... but he doesn't look surprised.

"You're not wet ... "

Adele mutters. When I meet his eyes, he grins.

"I thought you'd be wet after talking to Julius?"

My face gets hot.

"What are you saying ... do you think people are--"

Adele exhales and loosens his shirt tie.

"I wanna touch you."

"You're lying, right? Are you stupid, in a place like this ... "

"Don't be too loud"

Adele's hands push forward.

Chapter 9: Lower Your Voice in the Library

The building of the Great Imperial Academy was originally the place where the Principality's aristocratic council was.

The library is the largest building, boasting a huge collection of books from the time of the Principality, and is a large circular three-story building. At the center sits a column, and rows of bookshelves are lined up around it.

We are at the edge of the bookshelf on the first floor, probably the fifth row from the center.

Adele pushes me face-to-face against the bookshelf, with his face buried in my neck ... his right hand running up my uniform skirt and gently stimulating my insides.

In no time, I start to get moist and make a lewd squeaking sound.

"Hmm ... Hmm ..."

My rising voice unexpectedly echoes, and my heart becomes tight.

This library is very noisy.

"Adele, no ..."

I whisper into Adele's body. He drags his tongue on my neck as I try pushing him away with my weak arms.

"This ... oh ... if someone sees us ... hee, ah ..."

One more finger rubs the inside, and at the same time, Adele thumbs over my nub.

"Hmm ..."

Unintentionally, the hand pushing Adele's shoulder back starts to cling to Adele.

Adele looks up at me.

"What a nice voice"

He grins.

This guy ...! He's too happy teasing me! !!

Which of us hasn't changed since we were kids? !!

I licked my lips, keeping them from making a strange voice, and desperately glared at Adele.

"Adel ... are you angry ... ?"

Adele looks at me with an impish gaze.

"I'm not scared at all."

To make fun of me he flicks my sensitive grain.

"Kya ... Hmm ..."

A voice flourishes out and I hurriedly cover my mouth.

Adele looks at me with a feverish eye. There's a rattling sound and a loosening of the belt.

You've got to be kidding.....

As if it wasn't already a joke, Adele lifts my leg and pushes his erection all the way in.

"Ng.....!!!"

I cling to Adele and bite my sleeve.

"You can control your voice ...? We're a pair. Won't it be embarrassing if anyone hears?"

"Stupid, stupid ..."

Adele pulls out to the entrance once and pushes in again forcefully.

I desperately try to ignore the buzz in my head.

If someone sees us.

If someone comes.

The fear and stimulus seem to melt in my head.

"I wonder if Tia is still around."

Suddenly, a familiar voice talks nearby, and my consciousness jolts awake in my brain as if it was ejected.

"What do you think? She got here ahead of us, so maybe she's still around."

The voices of the conversation are certainly ... Cornelia and Julius.

"I didn't see her in the classroom. I wanted to talk about the dress for the evening party."

"You don't have to be so impatient. You can still talk with her tomorrow?"

Cornelia, who talks happily, and Julius, who gently talks to her ...

Their voices can be heard from the other side of the bookshelf, where I'm resting on my back ...

Surely.

I cannot let my voice out.

I press my right hand against my mouth even harder.

Schlick

Adele pushes me up like never before.

"!!!!!!"

My toes float off the floor for a moment.

As I was about to raise my voice, I look at Adele. Didn't you notice? Cornelia is right behind us...

I shake my head desperately and try to speak with my tearful eyes.

Adele looks at my face ... and the corner of his mouth quirks up.

And, he grabs my wrist ... and peels my hand off my mouth.

"Let me hear your cute voice."

He whispers into my ear. And again, squelch! He pushes harder.

"Ng.....!!!"

Adele pushes me up from below, as I try to stop my voice.

My feet float off the ground all the while.

Connected to each other down there, our temperatures mix and rise.

Why are you doing this ...?

Is it because Cornelia is close by?

Do you feel like you are holding her ...?

Through my hazy eyes, I can see Adele's face, which seems to be in pain.

"Tia is well informed on the latest trends, she can give you good ideas."

I could hear Julius' voice in the immediate vicinity, and my heart skips a beat.

"Ku ..."

Adele furrows his brows and breaths painfully.

As he looks at me, he suddenly laughs.

"Your insides get really tight after hearing his voice ... Are you imagining him holding you?"

What can I say ... why is this happening?

Adele pushes up and my body trembles as I struggle.

Furthermore, his fingertips squeeze my nub tightly ...

I open my lips and take an uneasy breath.

I can't stand it anymore.

It doesn't matter.

The world may end as it is.

"Hng~~~~~ !!"

At that moment, my voice cries out.

Adele releases his come inside and at the same time presses his lips to mine ... a deep, hot kiss.

It's so deep and hot that it almost swallows all of me ... my lips quiver.

Our first kiss together.

Chapter 10: A Prince in a Dream

I had a dream.

**The wind blows strongly.
And in the distance, a girl cries.**

**I'm running.
The corridor of the academy. This is ... elementary school. Wearing a cloak, a shorter skirt that's easy-to-move in ... an elementary uniform.**

**"Tia there! Around this turn!"
Ella's voice is behind me. Her voice is loud when she calls me, running up from behind to lead the way.**

We turned the corner of the fence.

A beautiful girl with shining blonde hair. A few schoolboys surround her with a stiff look, but without crying or crouching she stands like a noble.

**Behind her, a small stream flows outside the school, a low bank.
Seeing her cornered so far away, my mind lost its common sense.**

**"Cornelia-sama!"
I screamed and squeezed through the boys, pushing Cornelia behind me.**

**"What's up with you?"
A boy from the neighboring class.
I put my strength in my stomach, opened my arms, and looked up at them.**

**"What do you need Cornelia-sama for?"
"I was just inviting her to my birthday party, right?"
The student who answers with a grin is familiar.**

After the death of the former Principality of Arita, the Imperial Army controlled the people of this area. He's a son of the upper ranks. While studying at the same Imperial Academy as us, he speaks and acts looking down on the former aristocrats of the Principality of Arita. Although we are told by our parents to endure the torment, there were still many conflicts between the Imperial faction and the former Principality faction.

But now that I was 11 years old, many of them are gone. That is, boys and girls. I won't leave Cornelia alone in this situation.

**"Cornelia-sama doesn't visit such parties."
I said firmly.**

It would be a big deal if there were rumors that Cornelia, the last princess of the Principality, was going in and out of a mansion belonging to an Imperial schoolboy.

"Let's go, Cornelia-sama."

I tried to walk away with Cornelia's hand in mine, but the leader pulled on her other hand.

"Don't you touch Cornelia-sama!!"

I aimed for the leader's chest.

"Wow, this kid !!"

Suddenly, the leader is pinned under me as I held him down with all my strength.

When your number is smaller, the leader should be the first target. It is the most basic tactic that I studied in the war play that Adele and I used to look at since we were children.

"Cornelia-sama, please call someone! Hurry!"

In response to my cry, Cornelia showed a momentary hesitation, but turned and started running.

The moment I was relieved, my grip loosened.

"This kid ..."

The boy under me spun around and I easily ended up under him.

"Hey, are you okay?"

The jeering voice of his friend indicated the hurt pride of the leader, who hid his upset by turning his face red and laughing sneakily.

"You ... the precious daughter of a Count ... I'll discipline you so that you won't go against me again ... !"

On top of me, he then grinned insidiously.

I guarded my face with both hands and closed my eyes tightly, but when nothing happened, I opened my eyes in terror.

A boy standing in front of us was firmly grasping the wrist of the leader leaning against me.

His breathing was wild as if he had just been sprinting.

"... Don't touch her."

He spoke in a low voice.

Then he put more strength into the hand that held the boy's wrist.

"It hurts ...! Stop it!"

The Imperial boy stood up above me, pulled along by his wrist.

"Adele ..."

I rose halfway up and coughed.

Perhaps he'd come in immediately after sword training since Adele had dirtied trousers, a tight coat on his body, and a thin sword at his waist.

"What a friend ... you cheeky ... what're the aristocrats of a dead country anyway! You're not worth anything!"

"Our value is made by us."

Adele spoke in resolute. He stood in front of me as I managed to get back up.

"Hmm ... that girl, we'll re-educate her into a proper Imperial woman ..."

Adele's eyes shone sharply at his words, and he put his right hand on the grip of the sword.

"No Adele !!!"

If you pull out your sword in this situation, it'll cause a huge commotion! !!

I clung to Adele's hips from behind, trying to stop him.

As I was trying to pull back Adele's elbow, it ended up hitting me straight in the stomach.

My body tumbled and my center of gravity shifted behind me.

Behind the screaming and reaching of Adele's hand, I saw Cornelia running with the teacher and Julius ...

My body fell into the water.

Chapter 11: Perhaps it's Jealousy

"Will she be fine, teacher?"

"She has a steady pulse and her breathing is normal, she'll wake up soon."

"But she still hasn't--"

"Because you used too much strength on her!"

I hear voices from somewhere.

The familiar odor of disinfectant. Soft sheets underneath me.

A medical office-The medical office of the academy.

"I'll be taking off for a bit, but when she wakes up, come and call me."

Ah, teacher ... but I'm already awake ...

I can't make a voice, I can't move. I wonder if my body is still sleeping and my consciousness is gradually awakening.

Someone stands beside my bed, though I can't open my eyes to see who. A big hand strokes my forehead and the owner of the hand sighs. Somehow, it seems that there was something very similar to this before ...

The continuation of my dream.

I slipped into the river, trying to stop Adele and the other students from fighting, I ended up with a high fever and slept for two days ... At that time, someone came to visit me at the bedside and stroked my head just like this.

"-I'm sorry."

Yes, he apologized like this at that time as well.

I was drowsy then ... and I thought that gentle voice was like a prince, like Julius maybe? I feel like I know the voice ...

"Adele ..."

My eyelids finally lift. Adele, looking down at me, hurriedly withdraws his hand from my head.

"Tiana, are you okay? You fainted in the library ..."

**"I had a dream. A nostalgic dream."
I looked at Adele as I spoke.**

**"I thought I was pushed down by Adele in the river, but that wasn't it. I got a fever after that and forgot a lot. I'm sorry ..."
Adele looks at me in astonishment and laughs.**

**"What's that? Was that the full story?"
"Hey, I'm not sure how much is a dream and how much is true ..."
Yes, but I'm sure I liked Adele at that time.**

**"... It was bad."
Adele cries.
"I didn't think you would go along with it ... Julius' voice must've persuaded you."
Adele mutters as if he was sullen, it's kind of cute and I laugh.**

"Adele, your rivalry against Julius is too intense."

**"Right, of course ... "
"Is it because he's a rival in the Knight course?"
I decided not to voice my sadness if he decided to go with Cornelia.**

**But Adele turns to the side and insults me.
"-Because you're always talking about Julius."
"I? When was that?"
"Always. Julius Julius Julius Julius, it's all about him, and you rely on him right away ..."
"Is this still about those books? It's because you weren't around at that time."
"I went as soon as I could. And ... you, don't laugh at me."**

As I apologize, Adele keeps saying that he was my pair, and I peek at him.

What is this?

It's almost like ...

"It's almost like you're jealous ..."

I mutter, Adele's face is always cool and Adele's expression is ...

Adele turns his back on me. He takes long strides to the exit, and when he touches the door, he turns around with an angry face,

"Anyway, I'm the only one who can hold you. I'll make you feel so good that you won't be able to talk so cheekily, so be prepared."

Just before he opens the door and leaves ... He pauses and says one last thing.

"Amber is the color I prefer, so wear that."

The teacher came back after he left.

"Ah, Tiana Klein, you're awake? I'm glad. Adele Berger has changed so much already, he carried you in his arms, you know. It was funny. Oh, can you take medicine?"

I then remembered, at the library ... Adele kissed me.

As I listened to the teacher's droning, I pulled the blanket all the way over my head so no one could see my red face.

Chapter 12: Something Sweet

I stand on my toes and look towards the racetrack. I can see the students of the Knight course preparing for their training. There were those who pulled the horses and those who attached harnesses. I try to look closer.

"Not here ... "

I murmur.

"What is?"

Cornelia speaks, tilting her neck. I didn't notice her approaching.

"Eh! Cornelia-sama! No, it's just that I haven't seen Adele recently!!"

Cornelia reassures me warmly.

"Oh, just like Julius?"

She smiles.

"Julius and Adele are very busy, aren't they?"

I sigh.

It's been two days since I fainted in the library.

I'd been looking for Adele casually at first but more actively these days, yet I still couldn't meet with him.

Cornelia continues.

"Every time the Knights of the Empire stop by in a neighboring town, they're rushed to greet and escort the surrounding area as representatives of this school."

Yes, I've noticed that since last year when the two started competing for the top in the highest grade of the Knight course.

Chief of the Knight course, representative of the academy. And to protect the pride of the former Principality.

The expectations placed on them are very high.

"Moreover, Imperial students are overwhelmingly favored in the results of the Knights courses ... It's very distressing to everyone in the

Principality."

"That can't be true! Those two have the ability to succeed even with such a handicap and still have a lot of abilities! This isn't an Imperial only school!"

I held both her hands as I went on my rant, Cornelia looked a bit troubled.

Well, I've heard rumors, but is it true? Even in our civilian courses, there were situations where we felt a sense of inferiority to those born from the Empire. But in the knight course, which is said to have the stars of the academy, it would be seen more obviously.

Under such circumstances, how much effort is required of Adele, who has been defending the top position for the past year ...

All to be a knight suitable to protect Cornelia ...

My head began hurting so I shook my head to get rid of it.

After school that day.

I held a small parcel as I exited through the back door, heading to where I could see the men's dormitory.

Inside the package is a small baked confectionery. Since my last afternoon class was an off hour, I went back to the girls' dormitory and asked the maid of the catering staff to allow me to make it in the corner of the kitchen.

After the death of the Principality, aristocratic daughters started to enter their kitchens at home, but I wasn't very good at it.

I ran freely in the fields after successfully making the soft baked goods that Cornelia taught me.

Adele once had a bite at a tea party held at Cornelia's mansion a long time ago, he muttered that it was delicious. I've wanted to hear similar words from him since.

Hugging the still warm bag tightly, I took deep breaths so that I wouldn't miss Adele among the boys going in and out of the dormitory.

"What are you doing in such a place, Countess?"

A ridiculous, disgusting voice spoke from behind. I sigh and look back slowly.

Two male students in Knight course uniforms stand at formation behind a very specific student.

He is a particularly warlike student of the Empire, a young man named Dirk, who has a father in the executive branch of the Empire that controls this region.

At the age of 11, those three were the ones involved with Cornelia. After that incident, they started to resent us, finding opportunities, and coming up with more pranks.

The Imperial injustice was exemplified when they were enrolled in the Knight course ...

I silently give a bow and try to leave.

"If you're looking for Adele Berger, then I think you would have seen him in class today, but ... were you unable to meet?"

He spat his words at my back and I stopped unintentionally.

Dirk slowly approaches me, perhaps because he was satisfied with my reaction.

"It's weird ... you guys got together, right? Maybe ... he's avoiding you?"

Dirk smiles as if it was a hilarious joke, and tries to look at my averting eyes.

I hug the paper bag tightly.

"I often hear, when someone is paired with a person they don't like they gradually avoid them after the first night. It seems that you didn't fit each other in the first place, and it's no wonder. I laughed so hard when I heard you two were paired. "

"What about it?"

I look straight back at Dirk as if to shake that abominable voice.

"If Adele is avoiding me, I wouldn't go around asking you for the reason. I'll hear it from his own mouth, so mind your own business."

After all, I'm not the kind of person who can lose to you.

"How long will you keep saying things a child would say? ... Isn't it

embarrassing?"

"You....."

Dirk's raw white skin became a deep red.

He knocked down the package from my hand.

**The pastries peeked out from the paper. Then one of the lackeys
tramples it.**

**"What are you doing !! Do you think you're protecting people from some
poor food!?"**

Dirk grabs my wrist as I was trying to pick it up.

"You've always been really cheeky ... "

He pushes his face closer to mine.

"I can always ruin you ... "

What do you mean? I carefully look back at Dirk.

Dirk's gaze slowly ... leers down my body.

**"I used to think that you were just a country bumpkin, but when I think
of how you're the woman Adele Berger embraced ... I can't help but be
interested."**

Terror grew in me, and my back began to ache.

"What kind of face would he make if your body was hurt ... "

"Sorry to disappoint, but Adele wouldn't care about that!"

**At that moment, Dirk's body rose ... a blow from behind Don!!! He falls
on his back.**

In surprise, I raise my eyes.

"Adele ...!"

**There, the person who grabbed Dirk by the neck and pulled him away
from me ... Adele stood expressionless.**

"What are you doing, Adele Berger! A private duel is forbidden!"

"A duel?-"

Adele laughs through his nose.

"-A duel is something equals do. I just shook off the flies that were bothering my partner ... is there something wrong?"

He waves Dirk away and grabs my hand.

"Let's go."

"Wait, Adele!"

I hurriedly bent over at the feet of one of the lackeys, picked up the package to my chest, and began walking behind Adele.

"Wait, Adele!"

I chase after him.

Is he angry?

"--- if injured, won't do anything."

"Huh?"

The air is buzzing and I can't hear his voice well.

"What did you my by even if your body is scratched, I wouldn't be upset."

Adele stops and looks me up.

"Do you think of me like that?"

"Don't you know me?"

My pride shined.

"How many abrasions and cuts have I had since I was little? I wonder if you, who's been fighting and playing with me since childhood, knows this. I even broke my right little finger. I can handle myself, somewhat, from skinny little Dirk. "

Adele looks at me slyly. Then he sighs an exasperated breath.

" ... Are you really saying--"

His line of sight stops on the bag I'm holding to my chest.

"-What is that?"

Adele asks, in suspicion. I can't ... the crushed wrapping was too embarrassing to show.

"Ah, um. Nothing. Just a ... this is ... "

From one look you can see that the contents are bad. Some sand may have fallen in.

To show him the sweets in this state- and what kind of face am I to show when I tell him these were the same recipe from Cornelia?

".....nothing"

Adele was one step closer to me, I hid the wrap behind me.

"Smells sweet. "

He reaches for my back and easily takes away the bag.

"Ah! Stop it !!"

I reached out in a hurry, but our height was too different and I couldn't reach it.

Adele opens the package. Sure enough, some of the pastries were crushed and didn't retain their original shape.

In such a miserable situation, I turned red.

"No! Before, they were a little more ... It was a little better, but ... Of course, mine aren't even close to the ones made by Cornelia-sama ..."

While talking, I can feel myself shrink more and more.

Adele would probably laugh, someone like me acting delicate and making sweets ... going too far, and doing something that wasn't my usual style... Yeah, what if he gets sick?

I raise my head when I hear the sound of the paper being undone.

Adele was about to eat a crushed pastry.

"!! No, Adele! Maybe there's sand ... !!"

"It's good."

With a serious face, he chews and licks the powder on his thumb, and Adel drops the rest into his mouth.

"I have never eaten such delicious sweets"

Adele

Adele's words made my heart melt ... and fluffy ... I was almost crying and turned away to hide it.

"I was thinking about how tired I was earlier ... and how something sweet would be good to have... But I couldn't meet with you, so maybe ... I wondered if I was being avoided ..."

Oh, I'm stupid. After all, I don't care about words from someone like Dirk.

Pathetic. The worst.

"But I may have been tired after all ... Thank you for eating, I'll head back first ... "

Ton, Adele touches the tree just behind me.

While I was surprised to be caught between Adele and a tree, his other hand lifted my chin lightly ...

Adele's lips gently cover my lips.

A slightly sweet, sugary taste.

Releasing our lips for a moment, his very serious eyes look into my eyes. The beating of my heart started to pound in my ears.

Before I could say anything, Adele locks our lips again.

"Hmm..."

His tongue softly pushes my lips open and comes in.

Then he gently pulls my mouth.

While kissing, he changes the angle.

It's kind, but ... polite and slow as if trying to eat me from my mouth.

"Huh ..."

He slowly releases our lips.

My legs tremble, I can't stand, and he looks down at me, who was about to sit down, and sensually licks his lips ... Adele breathes heavily.

"... I want to eat something sweeter"

Then he picks me up, we leave for the dormitory ... and go straight through the corridors leading to the "special room for mating".

Chapter 13: Physical Examination

When we get to a separate private room, Adele sits me on the bed. Then, he pulls on his tie a little wildly and looks at me while taking off his shirt.

"Where? Where are the scratches?"

Fascinated by Adele's supple half-body's sudden appearance, I didn't know what he was talking about for a moment. When I came to I hurry to pull the left sleeve of my uniform up to my elbow and point to the bottom inside of my arm.

A small area where the skin was pulling is visible depending on the angle of light.

"Here. When I was seven, I was playing in front of the fireplace and fell close by. I was able to stop myself with my hands, but I still got burned with sparks."

Adele takes my wrist, looks at it, and follows it with his fingertips. Then he bends over and puts his lips on the scar.

"Hey !?"

After he pulls my arm in a hurry, Adele calmly urges, "What else?"

"Oh, oh, there's nothing else ... "

"Don't lie. It sounds like there's a lot of them."

I replied in a soft voice.

"Oh, on the left side of my abdomen ... When I was nine, I fell from a tree and the tip of a branch stabbed me. It's faded but there are still scratches."

"Take your clothes off."

Adele raises his chin a little and urges me. I sigh, taking off my uniform jacket, and untying the ribbon on my bodice. My body has been seen many times, but it's embarrassing to take off my clothes while being observed.

Adele unhook the skirt for me, so I took off my uniform skirt and

petticoat inside, and I was just in a chemise. I closed my thighs and pulled up my chemise ... I showed my stomach.

"Do you understand, here?"

Adele kneels beside the bed and looks at my stomach.

"Look, there. There's a little red line left, right? That's--"

"Where at? Show me well."

Adele, with a natural look, laid me on my back on the bed and flipped the chemise all the way up.

"No, hey ..."

Protesting in a hurry, a strange voice leaks from my open mouth. I feel Adele's tongue trace the red scar next to my navel.

"W, what are you ...!"

Ignoring my words, Adele slips the rest off my shoulders ... and lowers it.

With my chest exposed, he lowers my chemise from my stomach to my feet and pulls it out.

(this gets weird, I don't blame you if you skip)

"Which one? Right foot ... little toe?"

Adele's five fingers were each between the five toes of my right foot, and ... Adele put the little toe of my right foot in his mouth!

"What, what ..."

Adele's tongue on my foot, little toe ... foot ...

"Fuh ..."

The moment I tried to pull my leg, the sweetness that was numbing from the tip sprang up, and a strange voice came out.

"Stop it, it's dirty ..."

I try to speak in a quivering voice, Adele looks at me with a stern.

"Did you hear me before? I want to eat something sweeter."

Adele sucks my toe. Making noise and sucking, then tracing the tips with his tongue.

"Hmm ..."

I'm about to cry. It may have been strange for me to feel so comfortable with this.

Realizing that I was lying naked on the bed with my toes being sucked by Adele.

The room is still bright and the long evening sun shines through the windows, illuminating my body at my toes.

"Wait a minute ... no ..."

Adele licks my toes gently enough that they heat up, like a really sweet candy, and then his tongue moves upwards.

From my ankles and calves to my knees, thighs, hips, and from the side to the tip of my chest.

Carefully and politely, licking.

"Hmm ... mmm ..."

I make a lewd voice and my body sways.

The nub on my right side is traced by Adele's tongue in a fine circle.

That alone makes my place harder.

"Your body isn't full of scratches at all."

Adele puts his lips on the tip and rolls it in his mouth, then releases and looks at me.

I was embarrassed and desperately about to cry.

"No, it's really scarred ..."

Don't be so kind.

I'm used to getting scratches. A lot of the smaller scratches are to prepare for the bigger scratches someday. So don't treat it like it's something important.

If you do that ...

I'll end up scared to get hurt.

"Are you still saying that ..."

Adele looks down, lightly messing with my chest with one hand, and grins as if he had come up with something.

Huh. That smile, I recognize it ... when he would come up with a prank ...?

"Sure, there are scratches here."

Afterward, Adele grabs my ankles with both hands and opens my legs wide without warning.

"Huh!!??"

In the room where the brightness still remains, my legs are wide open, and a loud voice from shock comes out of me.

"Bad, stupid! Stop it, let it go! Stupid Adele!! Pervert!!!"

"See, the scratches here."

Smiling, he traces my ... most embarrassing part up and down with his fingers.

"That's not a scratch!... stupid, stupid, stupid ... huh ..."

A thrilling stimulus reaches my head from my spine, and I make an upset voice.

"Is that so? It's beautiful, but ... there are scratches here ..."

Adele looks at my expression and grins to hold back the fun.

One finger was buried in me.

"I'll slowly examine ... this wound."

Adele's finger bends inside.

"Hey !?"

My hips buck.

"Stop, Adele ...? There are no scratches ..."

Adel grins up at me as I held my tongue.

"Don't hold back. We have plenty of time ..."

He says.

Chapter 14: Only Me

Kuchu, Kuchuchu.

Chuku

There is a very ... embarrassing sound of moistness in the room.

How long has it been since he started?

The sun has completely set and the sky was sinking from deep indigo into darkness.

Adele has been gently... loosening that part of me ... with his fingers since a while ago.

Kindly ... or more like, relentlessly ...

Anyway, it's the only thing I can tell for sure.

My head's melted and I don't know what anything is anymore.

"Tiana ... awesome. I already have two fingers deep inside ..."

"Hmm ... Hmm ... Ah, Hmm ..."

"Even though it's so wet, it's still squeezing down when I pull out ... It's really disgusting."

I hug the blanket, press it against my mouth, and desperately kill my voice.

"No one can hear us, there's no need for it."

Adele pulls on the edge of the blanket.

"No, no ... it's too embarrassing ... hii yuu... nng..."

I bite my lips lightly until I took one breath. Adele moved in and pressed our lips together while lightly pulling the blanket out of my arm.

"... What's that ..."

He traces my lips with his tongue and rubs his fingers against the wall inside me.

"Hmm ... Hmm ...!!!"

My hips push into Adele.

"It looks like there are no scratches here ..."

I feel relaxed at Adele's words for a moment ...

"How about this one?"

He began rubbing from another angle. Hey!!! My voice leaks. My waist bucks again.

"Wow, it looks like it's leaking."

Adele's teasing makes me feel overwhelmed.

"... Hooh ..."

Yeah? Adele was engrossed with my voice.

"Adele's an idiot ..."

I mutter as I burst into tears.

"What now....."

Adele sharpened his mouth as if he was a little impatient.

"For Co-Cornelia-sama, I wonder if she'd do this ..."

"Why are you thinking of Cornelia in this situation, are you stupid ..."

He continued rubbing inside while he spoke in amazement.

"Why've you been avoiding me lately, stupid ..."

I speak with the remainder of my strength, Adele stops his fingers and looks astonished.

" ... I wasn't avoiding you."

"That sounds like a lie to me, hmm, Adele ..."

Adele stopped moving his fingers.

Looking at me from above.

"I was thinking about various things."

"Like what?"

"Just things."

"You can't avoid it ..."

Adele grins, begrudgingly.

"... If I see your face, I'll want to do this with you, so I can't think of matters carefully."

"What do you....."

"Your face and difficult thinking don't match well."

"That's the stupidest ...!"

And I was seriously worried here!!!

Adele laughs and then looks at me.

"With you-"

With his finger inside, his other hand cups my cheek. The angle of his fingers inside changes, and my body stiffens.

"-I'm the only one who can do this to your body."

I look up with tears. In the meantime, the inside was opened, and Adele's other hand began swirling the small part of the entrance with his fingertips.

"Fuh !!"

"If another guy touches your body the way I do... I will never forgive you. "

The blanket is gone. The sheets were also disturbed and kicked at his feet. I stretch my arms and call his name with a cry ~ Adel, Adel.

Adele approaches and begins kissing me.

I cling to Adele's neck and close my eyes tightly. I desperately endure the big waves of heat, trembling, with my hips slightly lifting.

"No one ... especially the imperial faction ..."

He whispers in my ear with a hot breath.

"I will not even forgive Julius ..."

While clinging to Adele, my body shivered.

After that, Adele embraced me.

Neither of them could correctly express their feelings any more.

Chapter 15: Preparations for the Night Party

(no snu snu until around ch.21 :()

"How wonderful ... !!"

On entering the room, Ella and the others became lively.

The room was nothing luxurious but the furnishings are what gave the room its beauty.

Colorful dresses can be seen from the opened closet.

Some of them were put on torso mannequins and shined brightly in the light coming through the window.

"It's the first and maybe the last night we can spend together. My mother was excited. She ordered a lot of dresses from her grandmother's estate. Everyone is allowed to choose the one they like best."

At Cornelia's words, the room is immediately flooded with the roar of the girls.

"Thank you, Cornelia-sama."

I thanked her as we stood at the entrance of the room.

I knew there were aristocrats from the former Principality that lost their power and would find it difficult to dress up for the evening party. So I consulted with Cornelia in secret.

"Thank you, Tia. I'm the one holding the evening party, after all. And I'm glad everyone will get to wear these dresses."

Cornelia smiled like a budding flower.

"Julius sent my request for the evening party to the academy ... I just pray that it will proceed without a hitch on the day. It seems that the Imperial students are making suspicious movements ..."

Cornelia casts a faint shadow between her beautiful eyebrows.

I remembered back to Dirk's vulgar threat, "I can ruin you." I also suspected the Imperial students were acting restless just before graduation.

"It'll be okay! Everyone on the Knight course will take turns

chaperoning the event."

I say in a bright voice, Cornelia also smiles.

"Yeah ... Oh, will you also choose a dress? How about that light green color? It looks very similar to your eye color."

"Oh, I ... I have something I want to wear from my mother's old wardrobe, so I'm going to adjust it as much as I can. Thank you, though ..."

Her expression read as, "Is that so?" Then, from behind Cornelia, Ella, who held a sunflower-colored dress to her chest, approached with a laugh.

"Hey, Tia. Did I hear correctly? Adele carried you like a princess and took you away."

"!!"

She must be talking about what happened after I was entangled with Dirk.

I started remembering that Adele literally kissed me from the tip of my toes to the top of my head, my face flushes red.

"No, it's a bit of a stretch ..."

As I slumped, Ella and the others giggled and bumped shoulders with each other like butterflies.

"Somehow, Adele and Tia are doing really well?"

"Adele still looks unfriendly and scary, but he's become more concerned over Tia lately."

My ears are getting redder and redder by everyone's words and laughs.

"But I thought Adele was longing for Cornelia."

Irina casually speaks while looking in the mirror, making my heart squeak.

"Admiring her from afar, but also feels like he has to protect her I was impressed by his knightly spirit Hey!"

Ella poked her, and Irina shut her mouth with a start.

"It's fine. Adele and I, after all, are just a pair, nothing more ..."

I panicked and smiled brightly to clear the air.

* * * * *

Around the afternoon, everyone had chosen their favorite dresses and went home with a light footstep.

In my enthusiasm, I checked the condition of each dress and listed them off to the person that wanted it. I only noticed much later that everyone had already gone away.

"Cornelia-sama ...?"

She was still nearby up until a while ago, so I open the door of the room and head down the spiral staircase following where the lights coming from. Heading towards the entrance hall ...

"I will make sure to always have three people on duty on the day of the party."

I hear a familiar voice and my chest bounces. I unconsciously hide behind the door.

"Thank you, that's very reassuring."

"If three people aren't available, I'll make the rounds."

My heart beats faster. I sneak a peek, they're in front of the entrance.

Adele and Cornelia talking.

Cornelia speaks first while looking at the paper spread out on her hands.

Adele points at the page, Cornelia looks then up at Adele, smiling pretty like a rose wet with morning dew.

Adele too.

Looks at Cornelia and smiles.

My heart becomes tight and my fingertips are cold.

I've seen these interactions many times over the last 12 years.

But why now?

Because I've become greedy.

"Oh, Tia. What are you doing there?"

I almost jump as someone speaks behind me.

Cornelia and Adele also look at me in astonishment.

As I look back, Julius gives an innocent smile.

"Welcome back Julius. Tia, I was just confirming the schedule of the Knight course on the day of the evening party."

Cornelia looks at me with a smile.

"I hope everyone has chosen a dress."

Following behind Julius, I approach them too.

I smile at Cornelia.

I wonder if I can laugh like normal.

I dare not look at Adele.

"Everyone was very pleased with the dresses. Right, Tia?"

"Yes, of course. I made a list."

"Good, I'm glad."

Julius nods and takes a short breath.

"... Before the adult ritual, we were worried that something would change when it was over, but everyone's excited to have the evening party now ... I look forward to seeing everyone enjoying each other's company. You two are also a surprisingly good combination for a relationship that was brought together by a ritual... Is the feeling mutual, Adele?"

I don't see it but I feel Adele's shoulders quivering in the air.

Adele replies.

"No ... we're not like that."

*** * * * ***

Sometime later.

I was looking out the window, swaying in a carriage.

A beautiful two-headed carriage painted white and blue.

Next to me, Cornelia sits and speaks in a happy tone.

"I'm so excited to go to the festival with Tia. The festival in Lille is really beautiful, you know?"

Right, I'm looking forward to it, too. I smile back and remember back to when we were leaving.

However, the memory gets cut off and hazy after Adele said, "We're not like that".

"Ufufu, Julius!"

Julius rides a horse outside the window, waving lightly to respond to Cornelia's laughter.

Julius and ... Adele are riding side by side next to the carriage, each on a horse.

I turn to my window and try to dry my tearful eyes with the wind.

I knew it.

For Adele, the most important thing is Cornelia.

I'm just a classmate ... well, a classmate he's uncomfortable with.

And by some God's whim, we became a pair.

I have no other choice but to be held by him, and because of that, I will get possessive.

I'm aware of that.

The carriage glides through the sunset, eventually arriving at a festival in a small town.

"Let's go!!"

Cornelia bounces as she gets off the carriage, escorted by Julius.

Adele took my hand before Julius could. He continued to hold out his hand to me as if to interrupt Adele.

"You'll fall with that distracted daze."

What is that?

Who's fault is it I'm in a daze?

I ignore Adele's hand and take Julius'. As I step down, I look up at Julius and smile.

"Thank you."

The whole town is in the middle of a spring festival.

I follow Cornelia and walk beside her.

Adele, Adele.

I mutter in my head over and over.

*** * * * ***

"What is with her....."

Adele mutters under his breath before following Julius, who glances sideways at him .

Chapter 16: Matching Kiss

"How amazing! So lively!"

Cornelia turns and laughs.

Lille, a small town located east of the academy.

The four of us were at the spring festival here.

Many food stalls line up in a circle at the center of the town square.

Some stores sell large roasted sheep, while others have special children's play-sets. And in the center, people wearing masks and funny clown costumes dance cheerfully.

"Look at everyone! That shop's selling soup. What kind of fried food is over there ... nice! What an odd color on that beautiful bird. I wonder if it's true that it can speak like humans... !!"

Cornelia is as honest, innocent, and pure as a child.

I love Cornelia, too. Therefore, I had decided to support Adele's love by sealing my own unrequited feelings to the bottom of my heart.

It's okay, and I know I'll love again someday...

"Look, look at that Tia."

Julius pointed to the sky.

Looking up, under the setting sun, many colorful lanterns were lit on the branches of the large trees surrounding the venue, and the area was fantastically projected.

"Wow, it's beautiful ..."

"You think so? I'm hoping I can borrow these lanterns for our evening party after their festival. I'm consulting with the people in this town later."

"At the evening party? It's a wonderful idea, Julius-sama ... truly."
I felt a little brighter and look up at Julius.

"Right?"

Julius also looks at me with a gentle smile.

Ah.....

Perhaps Julius realized I wasn't feeling well ...

Suddenly, my other hand is pulled.

"Kya!"

I almost fall from the momentum.

I'm only able to let myself get dragged away.

Julius fades into the crowd.

I turn around to look up at the person who's pulling my hand.

"Adele! What? It hurts ...!"

Adele suddenly stops and pulls my hand around him.

Then kisses me.

"Hmm ..."

I hit Adele's shoulder. Pushing his shoulders hard with both hands.

Adele pulls away and looks at me.

I look back at him.

"What were you doing with Julius ..."

Adele glares, then looks away and clicks his tongue.

"Huh?! I'm not doing anything!! You're the one smiling at Cornelia-sama, oh, this is so annoying !!!"

My chest was squeezed at the words I forced out, I wiped my kissed lips roughly.

"Don't be fooled ..."

Adele mutters in a low voice, holding my shoulders down and kissing me again.

He used rough force on my shoulders and almost bit me in the kiss.

He pulled away again and our eyes met ... When he saw my teary eyes, Adele's eyes opened wide.

"You promised you wouldn't let anyone touch you ..."

"I never promised such a thing!"

Adele frowns.

Oh no, I can't stop myself anymore. I glared at Adele.

"It's not like that with us. It's not like we're in love with each other.

....."

"That's....."

"What? Of course, you'd hate to be misunderstood by Cornelia-sama!

Unfortunately, your partner is me, the pessimist!!"

"That's not it."

Adele sighs as if frustrated.

"What do you mean! You're not making any sense!"

Adele's face was fogged out from my tears as I looked up at him, thinking back to the beginning when he told me that I wasn't understanding.

"So... that's why."

"What!?"

"I figured you wouldn't want Julius to get the wrong idea, not me.

So"

Adele's ears.

That cool and competitive Adele's ears.

Turn red.

"..... I didn't want to say anything."

Adele gently strokes my tearful cheeks.

".....fool"

I look up at Adele.

Adele's hand came down and we gently held hands.

"I don't like being talked to like that all the time."

We stare at each other in silence.

Then I leave a gentle kiss.

"I"

Before I could tell him anything, Cornelia's voice came from the other

side of the crowd, "Tia! I'm glad I found you!- I thought you were lost!".

Adele and I look at each other, chuckle, and return to Cornelia, holding hands.

I will tell Adele after the evening party.

I will convey these feelings.

Take courage and do it properly.

I've always loved Adele.

I was happy to be paired with him.

I want to stay with him in the future.

I'm finally decisive while looking up at the lanterns floating in the night sky.

Nevertheless.

We never expected trouble to arrive at the evening party.

Chapter 17: The Night Party

On that day, stars colored the night sky of the former Principality of Arita.

"Adele, look! Everyone is gathering !!"

Unable to control my excitement, I lean out of the carriage and look up at the mansion of the Duke of Arita on the hill.

The trees on both sides of the gentle slope leading to the Duke's residence were adorned with orange lamps at regular intervals, fantastically coloring the road leading to the beautiful white and blue pavilion.

"I see it, calm down or you'll fall out."

Adele riding a horse next to my carriage pleads.

Today, Adele is dressed in formal attire, as befits the head of the Knight Course at the Imperial Academy.

A pure white cloak with a blue lining and a gold thread edging with the coat of arms of the Academy on the neck.

Adele usually dresses a little more down and in a somewhat indifferent manner compared to me, the difference is so big that I've been so nervous since a while ago that I can't look directly at him now.

I was reluctant, but Adele insisted on picking me up at my mansion.

As he descended into the hall tensely, Adele opened his eyes and then shyly looked down and raised his mouth a little proudly.

"I told you ... amber, it definitely suits you."

I wore a dress that my grandmother wore when the Principality of Arita was once more glamorous, adjusted to my size as much as possible.

My grandmother's wardrobe had been quite abandoned after 12 years when the Principality was destroyed, but I remembered that the amber dress, which looked like melted ore, remained.

It had been a long time since I had been to an evening party, my

mother and grandmother were excited to the fullest, and I spent half a day polishing my body, doing my hair, and carefully applying makeup. My mother even decorated me with a treasured necklace that was hidden in the depths of the mansion.

I wondered if Adele would laugh if he learned how enthusiastically I dressed up.

I can't help being told that it's impossible ...

It's what I thought, so I was surprised and upset by Adele's words ... I almost cried.

But after that, close to my ear, "Isn't it a little too much cleavage?" Adele whispered dissatisfied, so I laughed.

*** * * * ***

The carriage slowly climbs the hill, I look at the distance from other carriages aiming for the mansion.

Thank you so much, Cornelia and Julius, for allowing me to come with Adele to such a wonderful party ...!

**"Adele, I'm really looking forward to tonight."
I called out to him.**

"That's right ... me too."

Adele also laughs.

Seeing that smile, I start to think.

Adele will definitely treasure Cornelia. I like it, I guess.

But maybe.

I wonder if he likes me about half as much...

Or does he hold me in order to eliminate his desires, or complete our

duty as pairs?

**No, it's not Adele's feelings that matter, but my own determination.
When this evening party is over, I will tell Adele the truth.**

**Feeling my heart pounding, I press my fingertips deeper into the
window.**

*** * * * ***

**Arita Castle, where numerous evening parties and ceremonies were
held during the years of the Principality of Arita.**

It is now the place where the Empire conducts its work.

**However, the Duke of Arita's residence, where the Arita clan moved to,
was still a gorgeous and luxurious mansion available to use.**

**The daughters of aristocrats descended from carriages one after the
other, as if dancing in their colorful dresses, and into the light that
spilled out from the entrance.**

**I got out of the carriage among them. Adele got off his horse a step
earlier and holds out his hand for me**

**In the hall, musicians who once played for the court during the
Principality era and are about to become grandfathers are gathered for
tonight's event (Julius seems to have found them ... as expected!)
Beautiful echoes in the hall.**

I enter with Adele.

**Everyone from the grade is gathered together with each other's pair,
and when they see each other, they become embarrassed and
grimace.**

While I was chatting with the girls in a slightly more pretentious tone than usual, Cornelia came down the spiral staircase leading to the second floor of the atrium in the center of the hall, escorted by Julius.

Cornelia, in a rosy dress, was so beautiful that it took my breath away, and Julius, who took her hand, seemed to shine brilliantly as well, and I couldn't help but fold my hands in front of my chest and gaze up at them in rapture.

"Hey, you look like you're drooling."

I snapped out of my trance at Adele's quiet mutter.

Drool!!!

Cornelia smiles at me, poking Adele's hips with her elbows.

"Tia, I'm glad you came. I'm sad that all of us will be graduating soon, but ... let's go all out and make wonderful memories tonight."

An evening party I will never forget has begun.

Chapter 18: Dance Partner

The first and last evening party at the Arita House to celebrate our graduation has begun.

It's a time of dream-like fun.

We were laughing, chatting and really enjoying the time.

Adele and his friends took turns on patrol, but nothing happened and our cheerfulness continued.

My mother used to say, in the old days there was a gorgeous evening party every night in the Principality. It may be selfish, but today is the first and maybe last night party we'll ever have.

That is why it may be such an irreplaceable, sparkling night.

As the moon rose, the orchestra began playing a waltz.

It was my first experience dancing in such a wonderful place, but I did learn the steps at the academy.

I took the initiative and put all my strength into my hand, looking up at Adele, who had just returned from patrol.

"A-Adele, why don't you dance?"

I chewed my cheek ...

It was unimaginable to dance with Adele, and I thought that there was a 70% chance that I would be refused, but I really wanted to dance with Adele tonight.

Adele might have expected me to ask for a dance, as he shrugs his shoulders and sighs ...

"I'm honored, princess"

Grinning, he holds out his hand to me.

Adele puts one hand on my waist and we start dancing to the music.

Adele is dancing! Adele's eyes are slightly downcast and have a scowl on his face, but when his eyes meet mine, he gives me a faint smile.

I was so happy that I could dance forever, my feet begin to float.

Hey, Adele.

We've been fighting for a long time.

I said many times how I would never speak to you again! Such harsh words.

You're dancing with me on such a day today.

I'm very happy.

I hope this time will continue forever.

The song ends.

When I try to open my mouth to ask to dance to the next song.

"Can I cut in?"

Julius taps Adele's shoulder.

Julius smiles to our astonishment, looking specifically at Adele.

"Don't look so scared, okay? Tonight also serves as a graduation party for student council members. What's so unnatural about dancing with childhood friends who are about to be separated? Everyone's already started to dance together."

He gestured to the rest of the hall with his eyes.

Certainly, everyone was dancing happily while changing partners.

I felt like Adele was about to say something, but he didn't and handed me over to Julius without looking at me.

I instinctively try to speak to Adele, but.

"Can you dance with Cornelia, Adele? I'm sure she's waiting."

Julius said as Adele walked away, so I swallowed my words.

The song plays. Julius hugs my body with a graceful movement and we begin to dance.

Julius' steps are light and fast.

As Julius leads our dance down the center of the hall, I desperately search for Adele.

"Tia, aren't you supposed to look at your dance partner?"

Julius hugs me and whispers in my ear.

"Oh, I'm sorry ... Julius-sama is very good ..."

When I look up, I'm surprised to see Julius' smiling face very close to me in the glittering light.

"Hey Tia, do you remember what I said before?"

"Huh....."

"Can you call me Julius and not Julius-sama?"

I saw Adele over Julius' shoulder. Cornelia looked up at Adele and talked about something.

With a laugh, her hand gently touches Adele's arm.

No.

I refuse.

I turn my eyes down. My field of vision blurs.

"Tia, I'm--"

Julius' voice is suddenly cut off.

"Julius, I'm sorry, but I'm the one who's escorting her."

The figure of Adele pulling Julius' shoulder was reflected in my watery eyes.

Adele squeezes my tear-stained wrist and heads for the exit.

Leaving the hall, walking through, and avoiding the people who were laughing and dancing happily with each other ... we walk out the front door, come to a corner of the entrance where the light doesn't reach, he turns and hugs me tightly.

Strong, strong force.

He's likely to pull my body into his own like this.

Holding me ... clinging to me.

"Adel, it hurts ..."

**He suddenly lets go of my body and kisses me ... like a bump.
At first, he keeps our lips locked as if to hold me down from above,
then presses my body against the wall of the mansion, until I could no
longer hold my breath nor pull away.
His tongue breaks through my lips then become entwined with my
tongue.**

"Hmm ..."

Probably his most intense kiss ever.

**As our lips separated, the mixed saliva pulls a string between us, and I
couldn't look at Adele's face because I was too lightheaded and
embarrassed.**

"Sorry."

**Adele gently wipes my lips with his thumb and looks at me with a sad
expression.**

"Huh...?"

"You were dancing with Julius, but ... I disturbed you two."

He drops his gaze as if sulking.

Like a kid who knows he's about to be scolded.

I didn't know what to say, so I took a big breath and-

"Did you dance with Cornelia-sama?"

Adele looks at me with a suspicious brow,

**"That should be the least of your worries especially when you're
dancing with Julius."**

"On the contrary ..."

I suddenly feel like laughing.

**"You're stupid. I don't think there'll be another chance anymore ..."
Seeing my face, Adele puts his forehead on my shoulder.**

His lonely, childish gestures are irresistibly cute.

"... I want to hold you here right now"

"No, that's impossible."

He stands straight again and we lock gazes, this time laughing at each other.

"Hey, Adele ..."

"Hmm?"

"There's something I want to tell you ..."

"Adele!!"

A sharp voice flies from the entrance of the villa.

Adele instantly takes a protective stance, hiding me behind his back.

"What happened?!"

He pulls my hand and we head out to a brighter area.

**It was Elmer, a classmate from the same Knight course as Adele, his eyes wandered about with his back against the light of the entrance
He's filled with relief upon seeing us.**

"It seems that Imperial students are riding carriages to the main gate of the mansion. It's a student organization event, so they also have the right to attend and ... Julius is on his way, but Cornelia-sama wants you to go as well."

Adele clicks his tongue.

"Damn ... they said they weren't interested-"

He spoke to the indignant Elmer.

"-Okay, I'll head over now."

Adele answers briefly and turns to me.

"Go to the hall. I'll be back soon."

I nod.

It'll be okay as long as Julius and Adele are there.

Elmer thinks so, and I'm sure Cornelia does also.

Of course, I think so too.

But.

When I saw Adele's back as he was about to head for the horse stables, I wondered why I felt very uneasy from the bottom of my heart.

"Adele!"

I called his name unintentionally.

Adele turned around, I continued in a slightly quivering voice.

"When you come back, I have something to tell you."

Adele stopped for a moment then looked at me.

"Me too."

I'll say it, and this time I will move forward without looking back.

I'll be fine.

I put my hands together, praying with my hands tightly on my chest.

"Kya ..."

At that time, a girl's scream comes faintly, and I feel like I heard it from the back of the garden.

As I look around, Adele is already heading to the main gate.

I hesitate for a moment, but ... I step into the yard.

Chapter 19: What Should I do, Adele

I gently lift the hem of my dress, go down the stairs of the front of the mansion, slip in between the parked carriages, and enter the mansion's front yard.

The beautiful garden is full of flowers from the four seasons and has a fountain.

Now it seems that everything is quietly hiding in the moonlight.

I look around ...

A figure behind the fountain became visible.

"Hahahahaha ...!"

A girl in a violet dress ... Leni, is grabbed by several tall people in the shadows.

The moment I recognize the person holding her ... I stood between her and Dirk and slapped his hand away.

"What are you doing?!"

I scream.

"Tia!!"

Leni clung to my back with teary eyes.

"Well ... if it isn't the Countess?"

Dirk continues looking down at me with a grin, accompanied by his two underlings.

"I'm a little sad to think, this is the last time I'm going to be interrupted by you when I'm trying to make friends with Principality students."

"Where did you come in from? The gate isn't open."

When I answer calmly, Dirk makes an annoying laugh.

"Ah, the main gate? Well, it wasn't open and I knew that Julius and Adele were coming, so I went ahead and entered by the back gate."

"That's how ..."

Did he want us to let him into the night party so badly he entered

through the back gate?

"And then these guys were looking lonely, so I called out to them."

"No, I heard the imperialists were at the gate, so I thought I'd check on them ... I'm sorry, Tia."

Leni's pair is Elmer. I think she was worried.

I nod to her in understanding.

"Okay, Leni. Let's go back to the mansion."

I didn't have the time to deal with Dirk.

If I act on my emotions and get injured, in that situation ... Cornelia would be inconvenienced.

I called myself and looked at Dirk.

"If you want to attend the evening party, ask Julius. He's at the main gate, so go there."

"Don't leave so soon."

Dirk grabs hold of my right hand.

I try to shake it off instantly, but he uses incredible strength to pull me towards him.

"Today, you ... you're doing an awfully good job of keeping clean. Not bad. Let me see it."

A licking gaze descends from my face to my neck and chest.

"Don't be dumb, let go!"

I look back.

"Did you finally awake as a woman after being embraced by Adele every day? Isn't he hugging you and calling you Cornelia, though?"

I swing my opposite hand back enough out of his reach.

There is no par for this guy.

"You've been fighting all your life, but when it comes time to get together, you're all over the place, aren't you country bumpkin! "

I clenched my fist tightly and was about to bring it down on Dirk's cheek, but I realized that would be a waste.

This guy ...

Dirk pulls me closer to him.

"What?"

At that moment, Dirk was smirking.

I bend my knee and kick it up between his legs.

Ugh, ooh wah.

Dirk kneels on the spot, leaking a frog-like voice.

"I will not tolerate remarks that degrade the Principality of Arita ...

Let's go, Leni."

I urge Leni to turn her back.

Dirk shouts.

"Humph Don't be ridiculous ! ! ! ! What the hell is wrong with you people? ! ! ! ! The aristocracy of a defunct country will have no choice but to cater to us, and yet, in the end, they will end up! ! ! ! ! "

"Poor guy. If you wanted me to be one of you, you should have acted like it."

I respond coldly without stopping.

"Is it okay?!!"

A loud, pathetic voice.

"Can you say that to me!!!"

Dirk is acting strange ...?

I stop cautiously and look back, urging Leni ahead.

The moonlight illuminates Dirk, sitting on the ground, looking at me and laughing with a large grin.

"Listen well ... Tiana. Tiana Klein!!"

He screams hysterically.

"Your original pair was actually ... Julius Khan, Tiana !! --- Adel Berger's partner was Cornelia Arita !!!!! I changed it, tweaked my dad's paperwork!!! "

The back of my ears turn numb. His voice echoes in my head, even though my brain doesn't understand it.

"Your real partner isn't Adele Berger, sorry Tiana!!!"

Dirk's mocking becomes crazy echoes in the garden.

"Tiana!!!!"

The voice of a loved one runs up behind me.

Reaches for me.

What should I do, Adele? What should I do?

I fell into Adele's arms ... and lost consciousness.

Chapter 20: Cornelia's Proposal

Oh, this is a dream.

Amidst the floating feeling, I vaguely follow my consciousness.

"Tia, my God! A wild dog is attacking Cornelia-sama!"

When did we get here?

We're wearing ... a middle school uniform.

Yes, this was when I was 13.

In an extracurricular class in middle school, I went out to observe the valley of a small mountain nearby ... I was spurred by Leni's cries.

This mountain, which was preserved back in the era of the Principality, was full of beauty but as the Imperial Army ravaged the environment and left food and other items unattended, it has since been exposed to dangerous creatures that had never existed before.

But in such an open area.

"Cornelia-sama ..."

"Adele !! Teacher !!! Adele !!!"

I rushed to the scene where my eyes darted around.

Wild dogs were running away.

Cornelia clung to the crouched boy and raised her voice.

"Tia! Call the teacher!! Adele drove the dog away, but he was bitten!!!"

Blood oozes between Adele's fingers as he frowns and holds onto his arms.

Cornelia clings to Adele with teary eyes, and Adele replies that it's okay, even though her face is distorted by the pain.

This is a dream.

Gradually, my consciousness returns to my 18-year-old body.

“--- Don't be silly, it's not a joke!”

Adele's voice. What are you so angry about?

What happened to Cornelia?

“Anyhow, let's turn him in for questioning.”

Oh, I wonder what happened to everyone ... What about the evening party? And I was just starting to enjoy it ...

I was as happy as if I was dreaming.

But I should have known.

You eventually have to wake up from that dream.

"Tia?"

I awoke suddenly.

A beautiful person with long golden hair jumps into my field of vision looking at me with anxiety.

"Cornelia-sama ..."

I mutter and try to get up.

"Don't overwork yourself, Tia"

Cornelia worriedly poured cold water from a jug into a glass and handed it to me.

"I'm sorry, I ... the party ..."

"It's okay. We've all had enough fun for one day."

The night looms through the window.

I get up slowly and drink the water. We're in an unfamiliar room where I lie on a warm bed, gently lit by a single lamp.

Later I change into a soft cream-colored silk nightgown.

"I'm sorry, I'm sorry ..."

"It's okay. You don't have to apologize."

"I had a strange dream ..."

Where did the dream come from ...

--- “Your real partner isn't Adel Berger, sorry Tiana!!!!”

An abominable scream resonates in my ears, and I almost drop the glass.

"Weird dreams ..."

No, it's different.

That wasn't a dream ...

"Cornelia-sama ..."

I look up at Cornelia.

Cornelia shakes her head and smiles sadly.

"Julius and Adele are accompanying Dirk Neumann to his mansion.

They're going to talk to his father ... administrator Neumann."

Then it's real.

That wasn't a dream.

--- “Your original pair was ... Julius Khan, Tiana!!! Adel Berger's partner is Cornelia Arita!!!! I changed it, tweaked my dad's paperwork!!!!”

What a nightmare.

To do such a thing.

What the hell ...

"Adele ..."

Adele. I want to see Adele.

My hand clasps the blanket tightly, and ... and Cornelia's white, soft fingers overlap mine and I raise my face.

Our eyes meet.

That's right. Not just me.

Cornelia must also be worried and anxious to know that Julius wasn't her partner.

I have to be firm.

"It'll be okay, Cornelia-sama! I'm sure Julius-sama and the others--"

"Tia."

Cornelia quietly opens her mouth.

"I have a proposition, Tia. I wonder if you can listen to it."

* * * * *

It wasn't long before Adele and Julius returned to the Arita residence. It was already midnight and the mansion was sunk into darkness.

"Good, Tia. You're awake."

Julius smiles as he enters the room when he sees me sitting in a chair with Cornelia.

From behind, Adele has a frustrated expression coming in.

I look down.

"How was it? Did administrator Neumann ..."

"He didn't seem to realize what Dirk did this time, either. He was pale when he listened to us, but he's as defensive as they say. Before we could finish, he tried to suggest that we might have forced Dirk to change the matches. "

"It's unbelievable. I'll slash him to ribbons."

Adele spits.

"Administrator Neumann says he will come to the mansion to investigate tomorrow morning with the Chief Executive of the region. Perhaps then ... he'll accuse us of going against the Empire for trying to change our matches. "

Julius sighs.

Adele turns on his heels towards the door.

"Should I leave that Dirk half-alive until he spits out what he did in front of the Chief Executive?"

"You can't do that-"

Cornelia, who was listening silently, finally spoke in a quiet voice.

"-Doing that will close your path to a Knighthood in the Empire."

"But Cornelia ..."

"I'm-"

Cornelia stands up from her chair.

"-I think it's best to set things the way they should be tonight."

Adele frowns.

"What it should be ...?"

"That's right -fortunately, Tia and I haven't had children yet.

Tonight, we'll restore the original matches. Adele and I. And Julius and Tiana. "

"Don't be an idiot-"

Adele spun back to face everyone.

"-You don't have to go along with this farce, Cornelia. I'll kill Dirk right now ..."

"Maybe we should do as Cornelia says."

Adele's movement stop at Julius' words.

I'm surprised as well.

"If that pair is what was supposed to be in the first place, we won't be risking too much by going against it. Come to think of it, all he did was change the matches among the four of us. It's not something I thought Dirk would do, I would have thought he'd do something like pairing himself with Cornelia or Tia. The mere thought of it makes me shudder, don't you think so too? Compared to that, I'm much more accepting of this situation."

Adele looks at Julius with an incredulous scowl.

"You guys are crazy. We're leaving, Tiana."

Adele approaches with a stride and pulls my arm.

" ... Tiana?"

I don't get up from my chair.

While facing down, I speak.

In a soft but clear voice.

"..... I would be very happy if I could be paired with Julius-sama."

Chapter 21: Performing the Ritual Again

(Small warning for non-consensual touching and kissing)

I noticed that I was sitting on the bed of a guest bedroom, on the second floor away from the Arita residence.

What a long night!

My body was tired and heavy.

I wanted to sleep quickly.

This morning, my mother and grandmother were helping me, busily dressing me, and Adele came to pick me up saying, "You look good in amber."

Such a day will never come again.

Because I trampled Adele's heart- his compassion- so messily.

A while ago, when the four of us were talking in the waiting room near the hall.

"I would be very happy if I was paired with Julius."

After I spoke, the room went silent.

"Tiana?-"

Adele spoke quietly.

"-Look up, look into my eyes, and say it again."

With my hand on my knee, I squeezed the nightgown, took a quick breath, and slowly looked up at Adele.

Looking at his eyes.

I loved being gazed at by those eyes; outlandish, strong, and lonely, but sometimes had a very gentle color in them.

Alright.

It was hard but I couldn't cry ... too many times I've recoiled like that.

"You already know this, Adele? I've always liked Julius-sama."

I gently lift the corners of my mouth into a smile.

"I've been thinking recently that being with you was more comfortable than I expected, but in the end, you're still not Julius."

**It felt like my mouth, my words, my voice, and my heart were disconnected, disjointed.
Like being in an unrealistic space, unable to touch the ground.**

“.....”

Adele stared at me.

It's okay, Adele.

Adele is kind. Very kind, serious, and responsible.

But now, I have to follow my heart.

Adele will also get to be with whom he's always wanted.

“..... Yes, that was the case.”

Suddenly, Adele breathed.

Stroking my head lightly.

“..... I'm happy for you.”

The next time I looked up, Adele was already opening the door and I could only see his back.

I got up and went near the window.

After I gently opened the curtain, I could see the main building of the Arita residence over the large garden.

Some of the many windows are lit with gentle lights.

I know, somewhere.

Right now, Adele and Cornelia

I just ...

I remember talking to Cornelia before Adele returned from Dirk's mansion.

*** * * * ***

--- “I have a proposition, Tia. I wonder if you can listen to it.”

Even after she spoke, her eyes flicked to me, then down or aside many times as if hesitating, then looked at me in resolve.

Her proposal was to return to the original pairing before Dirk had

changed it.

Despite my frozen expression and surprise, she tried to reason.

Perhaps Dirk's father would not easily admit his son's guilt.

If we make a big deal out of this, the Empire will take notice of us, and it will hurt our future after graduation ... especially, the futures of Adele and Julius who are active as Knights of the Empire.

If we were to make a mistake, we could end up imprisoned, like the 18-year-olds of the Principality, who once caused the "18-year-old rebellion."

Still, I didn't nod my head fervently.

I couldn't do it.

Because it would mean losing Adele.

If I were to admit it. The last connection between Adele and I would be broken.

However.

Cornelia's argument reached its final punch.

The last, thin, thin thread that supported me broke with a slam.

"And Tiana I want to be Adele's pair.

Because I've always liked Adele. "

*** * * * ***

"Tia."

Suddenly there was a voice from behind, and I hurry to rub my eyes.

I shouldn't. Before I could notice, tears began to overflow.

Already a shell of a person.

I don't even know if I'll remember how to walk and breathe tomorrow.

However, I smile at Julius as he enters the room.

"It's been a long day, Julius ..."

Julius had changed out of his formal attire and into loungewear; a soft cotton shirt and trousers. His ash-blonde hair glows dull under the lantern.

"I'm not tired at all. You must be exhausted, though."

Julius sat down on the bed and saw me standing by the window.

I'm sure he's also puzzled by this sudden situation.

"You must also be, Julius-sama. Are you going to sleep now? Then I'll get another room ..."

I answer quickly and head towards the door, my head was starting to spin.

Julius grabs my hand while sitting on the bed.

"Why?"

"Huh..."

While still holding on, he pulls my hand in a tight grip.

It was a strength that I couldn't imagine from his pretty face, and my body was easily knocked over onto the bed face down, with Julius on top of me.

"Why do you underestimate me?"

Julius' beautiful fingers pinch the tip of my maroon hair and kiss it.

As I vaguely followed the long eyelashes that framed his downcast eyes, he suddenly raised his eyes to look at me, and they had the color of a man that I had never seen before.

Julius' lips gently trace the side of my eyes, following the streak of my tears.

His lips slowly fall to my cheeks and then to my jawline.

When I understood where the situation was heading, I reflexively pushed Julius' body back with both hands.

"Hold on ... wait, Julius-sama ..."

"It's okay."

Julius whispers gently as he continues from the nape of my neck to my collarbone with his tongue.

"You know that, don't you, Tia? You may be a little confused at first, but with more physical contact, you'll gradually get used to it."

Julius' hands hold my shoulders down.

The white and supple hands of his have such strength.

I should've known. Julius is competing for the chief of the Knight course, after all.

My arm loses power.

Yes, I didn't know this would happen.

Somehow, I don't care about anything anymore ...

What is there to resist here?

I can see the lights of the main building outside the window.

In there, Adele and Cornelia are doing the same thing.

From the beginning, it was all a mistake.

Everything was wrong, and it shouldn't have happened ...

When my pairing was announced to be Adele, I was so surprised that my heart almost stopped, and even though I was confused, I was certainly so happy that I could cry.

The day before the ritual, I scrubbed my skin until it turned red and raw, thinking that this was a dream.

While we did curse at each other in the beginning, I was so reluctant and embarrassed that I held my breath when I exposed my skin to Adele for the first time.

The feeling of Adele inside me.

Adele gulped as he looked down at me.

When I saw Adele across the corridor, I was so thrilled I held my breath.

At the library, he told me that amber looked good on me.

Adele's hand gently stroked my hair as I slept in the nurse's office.

He ate the pastries I dropped and still called them, "delicious".

Our first kiss.

At the festival, we held hands and softly ... we even kissed just to touch.

"Tia ..."

Julius' hands holds my thighs under the nightgown, and his well-shaped lips touch mine.

No.....

"Tia?"

I push him back with all my strength; Julius, who was trying to kiss me, looked on in confusion.

"I'm sorry, Julius ... I'm sorry"

"It'll be okay, Tia."

"What do you mean....."

"I'm sure you'll forget about Adele."

-----! !! !! !! !! !!

I push Julius back, he rolls to the other end of the bed.

I landed on the ground, catching myself before Julius could raise himself up; as if he hadn't expected my moves and was confused, I jumped up and ran to the window with my momentum.

Opening the window, I turn around for a moment,

"Sorry!!"

I shout and slip out through the window.

Chapter 22: Running

"Sorry!!"

I shouted and jumped out the window on the second floor onto the roof.

"Oh, my God! Tia!"

Julius' screaming voice rang from behind me.

I wiped my tears, crawling on all fours on the slanted roof, and when I reach the end I jump to the tree in front of me. I meant to cling to the trunk of the tree, but my hands slipped on the bark that was wet with night dew, there was a rough sound as I fell down the trunk ...! !! !! !! !!

I landed at the base of the tree where clovers were clustered like cushions, which helped break my fall.

Getting up and made sure I was fine. My joints are shaking like I've been startled, but it won't hurt for a few hours. It was worse when I fell out of a tree in the schoolyard when I was in primary school. Anyway, I run in the darkness toward the center of the garden. In the moonlight, I could tell that my nightgown was in tatters, perhaps because I had just hooked it on a tree branch. One of the shoulder straps has come off, and it's torn from my waist to thighs. But it doesn't matter.

Adele, Adele!

I desperately run toward the lights of the main building of the Arita residence.

My legs tangled and I fell down many times.

Each time jumping back up and running again.

I can see the front yard of the mansion. The fountain and flowerbeds are illuminated by the moonlight.

Just a little while ago here, Dirk had revealed the cruel truth. And Cornelia said that she liked Adele.

Adele and Cornelia were the real pair.

I shouldn't disturb two people who are in love with each other.

That's what I thought, first.

But it's different now.

That's not what this is about.

Because, even if things don't go back to how they were, I have changed.

The only thing I want to tell Adele is -----

My legs got tangled again and I tripped and fell into some mud.

My mother and grandmother had made me up all pretty, but now I'm as messy as a ghost.

Still, I stand up and start running barefoot.

At that moment.

In the distance, at the path connecting the main building and the detached house, I saw a figure.

A woman with beautiful, golden, lustrous hair chases after the shadow of a tall man with a cloak rushing away.

The shadow man walks quickly then stops, jumps over the fence without hesitation, and runs over to me at a tremendous speed.

Coming closer and closer.

"----- Adele!!!!!!"

A scream escaped from the back of my throat, coming out as loud as possible.

"Tiana!!!!!!"

Adele hugs me at my knees, hugging me as if wrapping my muddled body with his, willing to get his white cloak dirty.

With all of his strength He hugs me tightly.

"Adele, Adele, Adele!!!!"

I cling to Adele, crying out his name over and over again.

Adele embraces me with so much force that it felt like I was about to break, curling into my neck, staying still for a while without speaking. We were both out of breath, the sound of our hearts beating in our ears, and I thought, God, I want us to be one. That's what I hoped for. Then Adele looks up at my face ... huh ... somehow, he starts laughing with tears falling out of his eyes and gently strokes the top of my head.

"You look great ... are you hurt anywhere? Are you okay ..."

"I love you, Adele!"

I will never cover these overflowing feelings again.

With those thoughts in mind, I desperately spoke in a trembling voice.

There have been many times when I had the chance to say it.

But I didn't have the courage to speak those times.

Now.

It was about to end.

These feelings are my only truth.

The only thing I had to cherish and convey was the most important thing.

Please, Adele, listen ... Adele.

"I love you the most. I've always loved you. I've loved you ever since we were kids. I don't want to forget it, uhm, there's no way I can. I don't like anyone else. Only you "

"Me too."

Adele's confession robs me of my voice.

"I've always loved you, only you ... I've always loved you."

"No, I've loved you longer."

"No, I have."

"No, me!!"

"Ah, be quiet and give up!!"

Adele replies in frustration ... locking eyes, we begin laughing ...

Adele then turns serious ... looking at me.

“..... I thought I was going crazy.”

He closes the distance between our lips.

A hot and deep kiss.....

Release our lips for a moment and change the angle.

"I love you."

Kissing in the moonlight, hugging each other as we scramble up each other's bodies.

Chapter 23: Truth+Truth= ...

Then what happened to us?

Adele said, "Let's leave the empire," and we were about to start preparing to leave the country together, without waiting for morning. The one who put a stop to it ...

*** * * * ***

The next morning.

We were hardly able to sleep when Dirk's father, Chief Executive Neumann, appeared in front of us with Chief Executive Weber. Administrator Neumann oversaw the education system in the former Principality of Arita, with the academy at its head. I heard that Secretary Weber was dispatched from the Imperial City about a year ago as the Chief Executive of the Southern Skinia Empire, but this is the first time I've met him.

"I was surprised to hear from my son that he had rewritten the sacred 'coming of age ritual' mating combinations to suit his own desires Well, I didn't think it was possible, but this faction was originally very rebellious because they were the lords of this land. My paperwork was perfect."

Chief Executive Weber was fearless for his age and sat in his chair in deep concentration as he listened quietly next to Neumann, who wiped his sweat fervently as he spoke rapidly.

Perhaps the Chief Executive was comfortable listening silently, Neumann continued to rub his nose.

"In the first place, my son's gentle nature allowed these people to do whatever they wanted from an early age...! I've had to deal with my son getting into trouble for things he didn't do, and deal with several boys getting involved with an Imperial girl! This time, too, they must have forced my son to rewrite the documents to their whims. "

I squeezed my hands on my knees because of my disgust at Neumann's self-justification, and my anxiety about having to come to this place without taking any measures.

"I see, that's mysterious."

Slowly, Chief Executive Weber opened his mouth.

"That's right, we must give strict wait, mysterious?"

Neumann stops.

"Trying to cause trouble, entwined with a girl who's doing nothing ...

They were the ones doing it, which is exactly the opposite of what was said in the complaints I received earlier. What does it mean ... I'd love to hear it."

He slowly uncrossed his legs and placed a thick leather-bound book on his lap.

"Cornelia, do you have anything to add?"

"Well, Uncle Eckart, we're very confused too."

Cornelia furrowed her beautiful eyebrows, put one hand on her cheek, and tilted her head prettily.

"I wanted to show you the diary that I've been keeping. But that's all I have. I'm trying to keep a detailed record of our student life. From our perspective, it was Dirk Neumann and his friends who were the ones causing trouble and getting involved with the girls ..."

"Wait a minute!!!"

Neumann yelled.

I didn't think I would ever feel comfortable with him, but I felt the same way, and probably Adele did, too.

"Oh, what kind of relationship do you guys have ...!!!"

"Oh, didn't you know? Well, neither I or my brother go around talking about it aloud."

Chief Executive Weber looks on in amusement.

"I'm an adopted son-in-law ... before I got married, my name was Eckert Arita. The last lord of the Principality of Arita ... Cornelia's father is my older brother."

Administrator Neumann's eyes were black and white as Chief

Executive Weber stood up from his chair.

"The third son never stays in the Principality. When I was young, I went to the empire and planted roots there. I didn't think I'd be dispatched to this area, though ..."

Then the uncle and Cornelia stood next to each other and picked up the documents from the desk.

"This is the list of pairs that my uncle brought to me from over the last few years, each pair decided by the empire, but ... there's something strange. There are a few that are different from what we recognize... just a couple a year or so, and they are very discreet."

About five years' worth of documents, Cornelia hands them to Chief Executive Weber.

"Men from the imperial school ... and they are all relatively wealthy. And it's so strange, you know? Shortly after that, Dirk took a long vacation to go out with his friends ... well, that year he bought a nice white horse. He couldn't ride it, so he gave it away. "

Neumann's eyes became wide and his face gradually turns blue.

"Is that so?"

Chief Executive Weber turned his eyebrows over the material.

"I'll have to talk to your son about this at once. By the way, one more thing to worry about-"

He taps Cornelia's diary.

"-In her diary, the two of them ... Julius Khan and Adel Berger's illustrious achievements on the knight course are clearly described, but ... I've only heard from you. I think there is a gap between what you knew when you submitted the formal document. "

This time, clearly, Neumann's face turned pale.

"The record of the tournament in the final semester, the record of the ceremonial knights when the Chancellor stopped at the port last year ... All achievements of your son, according to your report. Hmm ... but looking at this diary, it should belong to the two of them."

Neumann didn't speak. His throat shaking.

"I'm certainly from this area, but ... I don't want to give those from the former Principality of Arita special treatment, however ..."

With a gentle smile to Cornelia and a cold glare at Neumann.

"If there's been something fishy going on, it must be properly corrected."

"Well, that is, secretary ..."

Cutting Neumann off, Chief Executive Weber laughed invincibly.

"So? Who is my cute niece's partner?"

*** * * * ***

In the end, by Cornelia's influence, our partners remained the same ... as we were the first time, so as to not draw any unwanted attention. However, Chief Executive Weber promised to deal with Neumann's forgery of his son's performance. The empire attaches great importance to developing human resources. There have been reports of Neumann cheating at headquarters for some time, and Weber was dispatched to correct it. Neumann's downfall is inevitable.

From now on, I hope that our juniors will be able to get grades fairly. Just as Neumann escaped, Chief Executive Weber then left to greet his brother, the former Lord Arita, leaving just the four of us in the room.

"-Is this fine? Could there be others who were also mismatched because of Dirk? We have to judge it properly."

I ask Cornelia what has been on my mind.

"It's okay, Tia. Actually ... my uncle says that there was something going on with the matches, and we ... I've been doing some research with my father for some time."

Cornelia gently looks at Julius.

"I've met and talked to people who might have had their matches changed. Some people lived happily, others didn't. It's the same thing with the fixed pairs ..."

"Still, everyone has children and their lives are progressing ... They don't want to make a big deal about it. For those who want to fix it, my uncle will help them out in a way that will not be made public. It's not going to be public, but I'm sure it will be reported. "

The empire wouldn't want to make big news out of the students that were easily allowed to rearrange, Cornelia finished.

"That ..."

I sat down in a chair.

"Cornelia-sama, I've searched but ... I didn't notice ..."

"But we didn't expect Dirk to be so bold and foolish as to change our matches. That's why we were really surprised. As a result, it turned out to be a fatal flaw on their part."

Cornelia smiles.

The room is quiet for a moment.

"Tia, Adele."

Cornelia's smile disappears from her visage and she moves to stand in front of the chair where I'm sitting.

She looks at me and Adele who is standing behind me.

Then she bows deeply.

"Truly ... I'm sorry. I'm sorry, but it's completely my fault for hiding my uncle and what we've been investigating so far. I'm sorry. I'm really sorry for making you suffer so much. "

"Why ... why, Cornelia-sama. Why suggest such a thing ..."

The last flower of hope for the Principality of Arite, Cornelia, was bowing to me.

Such a thing cannot be forgiven, but the motivation to stop her ... does not spring up.

Why, with such a clear trump card, did Cornelia dare to...

Why did she dare to suggest changing our pairs?

"That is....."

Cornelia looks down without hesitation.

"... It's my fault, Cornelia"

Julius leans against the wall near the door as he speaks.

"I loved Tia, so you thought you'd let me fulfill my feelings for her, didn't you?"

"..... What? What do you ...!?"

I rashly spoke after being dumbstruck.

Julius? About me???

"I have always longed for Tia. I used to talk about it to my friends in the Knight course and to Cornelia."

Julius smiles and looks at me as he is frozen.

"But Tia has always just 'liked' me ... I knew she wasn't conscious of me as a man at all, but I still hoped for a spark."

"Julius, you ... Aren't you the cause of everything then?"

Adele had been standing behind me, he stepped forward as if he couldn't bear it, holding Julius' neck with his right arm, his blood vessels pulsing.

What should I do if the two Knight course leaders start a scuffle over me?

"Ah, but Adele thought that Tia liked me for some reason, and I was a little happy, so I didn't deny it ... Keh, Adele, it's really starting to hurt ..."

"He's right. So when I heard Dirk's confession, I thought that maybe this was the last chance for Julius to express his feelings ... I knew that if I told her that I liked Adele, Tia would back off. I played a dirty trick on her. "

Cornelia looks down and talks in a small voice.

"Julius is like my brother ... in fact, even after we were paired ... we hadn't reached that kind of relationship yet."

I was out of words.

"So I thought to myself, 'Why not?' I knew that if I went with the flow, Julius would be happy. I knew how Tia felt, butI'm so incredibly stupid. I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. I could have done something irreversible."

I stood up from my chair, pulled apart the two glaring boys, and stood in front of Cornelia.

"That's not all, is it?"

"Huh...?"

Cornelia shakes her eyes in confusion.

"Cornelia-sama, you didn't want that, did you? You didn't you really want me and Julius-sama to do get together?"

I stood as tall as I could, looking into her eyes. With both hands, I gently grabbed her shoulders.

I was the one who did something wrong last night.

Cornelia wouldn't have wanted to break her relationship with Julius.

I know. I've been watching Cornelia for a long time.

I know how defenseless and innocent Cornelia can be in front of Julius. No matter how much she trusts him, following him with her gaze, smiling gently at him, and

"You must've been so happy to be paired with Julius?"

Cornelia's wide, blue eyes, like the world's most beautiful lake, blinked ... as if to rise from their surface ——— a single, rounded, transparent tear, spilled out.

"Because ... it's no good. I can't.

"Even though the country is gone and I no more power, he will still be treated as my Knight forever ... and yet the only one who's able to

release him will be me. I feel sorry for Julius ... It's no wonder he can't hold me."

Tears overflow from Cornelia's eyes.

Adele let go of Julius' chest and roughly elbowed his back.

Julius stands in front of Cornelia.

"Cornelia ..."

"Julius, I'm sorry, I ..."

"No, I'm sorry ... I thought you had grown tired of me and wanted to end our relationship ..."

Julius gently hugs Cornelia.

I pull the hem of Adele's cloak. I opened the door and headed out into the hallway so as to not disturb the two.

"Somehow, it's all muddled in my head ..."

I muttered and put my hands on my cheeks. A lot of things have happened, and my head is about to explode with the amount of information dumped on me.

Due to lack of sleep, I can feel reality and my dreams mixing together. I look up at Adele.

**"It's all because Julius was faltering. I'll definitely hit him later."
Adele mutters something that isn't fitting of him.**

"... with you."

I gently caress his hand and gaze up at him.

"With you ... I wonder if it's okay to continue to be in contact with each other ...?"

I'm afraid to put it into words. Carefully pulling reality into my hands.

"We can start a real relationship now, without worry... right? ... It wasn't a dream when you told me that you liked me ... right?"

Before I could finish saying anything else, Adele placed a hand on the

wall and closed the distance between us in a kiss.

"I love you, Tiana. I'll never let go of you ... I'll say it again and again. I've been wanting to say it but couldn't, I've been holding back so much."

He bites my lower lip sweetly and picks me up in his arms.

"Eh !? Adele !?"

"Let's go. I'm gonna mess you up right now I'm gonna love you to death so much that you'll believe my words with all your heart."

"Hmph, don't joke around ...!!"

I haven't slept a wink, and my head is spinning with information.

Various things are already at their limit!!

"I'm not joking. Do you know how happy I am now? I can finally hold you while telling you how much I love you. It's like a dream. I'll love every trace of your body."

He whispers in my ear while still holding me up, then plants another deep kiss.

I cling to Adele's neck, squeezing ...

Chapter 24: The Day Before Departure

"Grandma! Ready? Make sure you lock it this time, okay? Right after I get on, okay? Yes, Grandma!"

Grunting, I kneel on the huge leather trunk that was once used by grandma back when she traveled abroad.

Under my weight, grandma yelps as her dead-branch finger gets caught on the clasp of the trunk that finally manages to close with a squeak.

"I can't do it, dear! You have to reduce the number of books by 10 or this will never close!!!"

"I can't do that, I already did my best to reduce it to what it is now!!!"

"Please show them to your grandmother, she has to reduce it by 20." Mother came into the room while grandma and I were arguing. I hold up my accessories and other dresses.

"Hey, Tia. I still think you should take at least three more summer dresses with you."

"It's okay, mom and grandma !! I'm going to study medicine !!!"

Ten days have passed since that evening party.

Tomorrow, I will finally leave home to attend the School of Medicine at Luton Imperial University, a full day's train ride north of this region. Now my house was in a fuss to prepare.

"Hey ... don't you think it's okay to delay enrollment for another year ..."

Mother casually brings up a topic that has been discussed at length with both father and mother already.

"No, if I do that, I'll have to take the exam again."

"Because you see ... what about your wonderful pair ..."

"Adele has already accepted this."

Just then, the doorbell rang and my grandmother, who had gone to check for me, came back with a beaming smile.

"You are here every day, truly ... it's so nice to be young ...!"

*** * * * ***

**Every day, Adele rides on a horse and takes me around the
Principality.**

**Because of that, my preparations for going on to higher education are
terribly delayed ...**

**Today, we head to a hill overlooking the academy.
The wind feels good, and when I get off the horse, I stretch.
I have loved this place since I was a child, with its short, light green
meadows spreading out under the blue sky, dotted with yellow
dandelions.**

"Are you ready to leave?"

Adele doesn't answer as he ties his horse to a tree.

**Adele, along with Julius and the others, will be entering the Imperial
Knight Order in Heilban, one of the largest cities in the Empire, which
is considered the best way to advance in the Imperial Academy's
knight course.**

**"You and your friends will leave the day after tomorrow, right? I know
you're busy, so don't worry about seeing me off."**

At that, Adele looks at me in amazement.

What I told my mother earlier was a lie.

**Adele did not want to accept that we would be separated, not even a
little bit.**

**"It's okay, I'll be back here during the summer vacation. It's not just
four months ..."**

He grabs my hips in an embrace, kissing my forehead, then presses

our foreheads together and pouts.

“..... Too long. Four days is already too long, but four months is absolutely impossible.”

"Time will pass in the blink of an eye, Adele"

" ... Hah ..."

Adele caressed his lips from my cheeks to my chin and neck,

"Why ... can't we ..."

Yes, we've been intimate every day ... many times a day since that evening, but ... I still don't see any signs of pregnancy.

"I don't get it. It's unreasonable that they accomplished it and we haven't."

He mumbles in contempt.

"You don't think they're"

"Cornelia-sama and Julius-sama, right?"

"You shouldn't talk about them like that!"

Yes, it seems that the two of them had their first official relationship the day after the evening party (Cornelia shyly told me) ... and the other day, they found out she was pregnant.

"Julius-sama and Cornelia-sama were too close to understand each other well. They realized their mistake and what matters most to each other"

I can't help but murmur in enrapture. The two of them cuddling together, informing me of her pregnancy, and the cheerful Cornelia was just divine!.

"Julius dared to play a villain for the three of us who weren't being honest."

"No, it's all because he delayed his decision-"

Adele states with a stern look.

"-And Julius was always looking at you in a lewd way. All the time. You didn't know it, but he was famous in the Knight course for always saying how cute and pretty you were."

"That's not what I meant. Julius told you the other day, didn't he?"
A few days after the evening party, I remember Julius, who came to apologize to me and Adele again, told me.

--- You know, I've always admired you, Tiana. You could find things to make your life easier. As a knight, I wondered what I should do, what I should believe in from now on? In the midst of all that, you were different.

--- I didn't care if the duchy fell or if House Arita lost its power. I just loved Cornelia, protected her, and carried on for her. I think you were the last knight of the Principality of Arita. That's what I admired about you, I guess.

When Adele saw me starting to grin, he grumbled... and touched my breasts, over my clothes.

"Kya ..."

"You always look at Julius with enchanted eyes, and Julius says you're cute, really ..."

"Are you jealous?"

I teased, but Adele's touching stops for a moment ... and I thought he was going to get mad at me!

"Amazing, I've been jealous every day."

He stops me from speaking with a nibble at my lips, and my heart goes weak.

Adele looks at me, kisses me gently ... and sighs.

"..... We were supposed to have a healthy date this evening, but I can't hold back."

I speak with a quivering voice.

"Yes, you promised ..."

"We can go if you don't mind doing it on the horse for the rest of the trip." (yes that)

It's an outrageous suggestion, and my head boggles at just imagining it.

"What are you talking about, you idiot? Everyone's going to be so

shocked, mothers are going to faint!"

"We can hide it with our clothes so that it won't show."

Adele says as he presses his body against me with a giggle.

What I found out again was that Adele was very ... bold. He was originally the type of guy who didn't care what people thought, but he started to be more and more direct about his feelings. I'm very happy that he wants me like that ... but sometimes he'll say something that surprises me.

"You idiot! You ... animal! I hate ..."

"Is that so? But I love you."

He responds with a straight face immediately.

"Wow, I love you too ..."

When I accidentally replied, I turned away and, "Ahhhhh"

"I'm going to hold you now until the last second before we have to leave. We don't have a lot of time."

He picks me up and takes me towards the horse. Mounting his horse, he then flings himself on the back, turns me around, and kisses me again. (I was relieved he didn't try penetrating here).

Whenever we're together, Adele kisses me constantly.

I didn't know that Adele was such a sweetheart ... it's somehow cute. Yes, I already love him, stupid suggestions and all.

From now on, I will be held to my limits again in the privacy of Adele's mansion.

I wonder if I'm really prepared for tomorrow's departure ... By now, grandma must have pulled out all my books from the trunk ...

Adele, I'm sad to be away from you too, but I have to go to school so that we can be together in every way in the future.

As I listened to Adele's heart beating in his chest, I felt the breeze of the Principality of Arita on my cheeks.

Final Chapter: Now and ...

Adele hugs me as we enter his room in the Berger mansion.

"I like Tiana. I love you ..."

Hugging, whispering in my ears, licking my earlobe, his hands begin to take off my clothes.

He moves in a tangled fashion towards the bed, one knee on the bed, peeling off my clothes, he pulls me to the bed in a kneeling position also and begins to kiss the skin that he reveals as he removes the layers.

"I like Tiana ..."

I laugh at the embarrassing and ticklish sensation.

"You're really repeating yourself."

"Because it's not enough to say it just once."

Adele looks up at me with enthusiastic eyes and says in a slightly faint voice.

"Up until now, I thought that I couldn't say it even while doing this kind of thing, to have to hold back from saying it, and if I did, it would all be over....."

In fact, I wanted to say this from the very beginning," he murmurs, tracing the tip of his tongue over the exposed swell at the tip of my breast and sucking on it.

"Huh ... hmm ..."

I let out a sweet voice as my body writhes from his touch.

My body has become so sensual from being loved so much to the point where there's no part of my body Adele hasn't put his lips on in the last 10 days.

"Such a cute voice ... I want to hear more."

Adele dexterously took off his clothes while sucking on the tip of my chest ... and stripped naked.

Then his fingers tease me, tickling the tips of my breasts, between my legs, where I was still kneeling and relaxed.

Adele steps down to the side of the bed where he sees me with my hips and thighs trembling ...

"Stay still."

Afterward, he placed his mouth at my nether region.

He licks up from the bottom to the top, and I can't help but cover my mouth and roll my head back.

Adele's hot tongue gently ... opens into my fold and carefully, carefully outlines the inside.

"Huh, uh ..."

It's embarrassing no matter how many times he does it, and at this angle, I can see Adele looking up at me, and I'm already melting and overflowing from deep inside.

"There you are, all mellowed out ..."

He mocks and looks up.

"Because ... it felt good and I'm melting ..."

At my words, Adele grunts, let go's, and as he stands, slowly licked his own, wet lips with my embarrassing nectar.

"You are really saying things like that ..."

He pulls my trembling hips up and sits me on his lap facing him ...

Hugh, Adele's bare hard-on rubbed against my throbbing entrance.

I rock my hips back and forth in a hurry ... the entrance rubs with a churn against his erection.

"Hugh ... hmm ...!!"

"I feel ..."

Adele looks at me with a grin, kisses me on the lips, and then slips into my folds.

Face-to-face. Once he reaches the back, Adele lightly hugs me and pushes my hips up and down.

"Hugh ... Hmm ... Adele, Ah ..."

I desperately cling to Adele's neck.

"Hugh ... you're getting too tight ..."

Adele cups my right cheek and kisses me again.

"More. More, cling to me. Ask for me ..."

--- With the duchy gone, Julius is not the only one who has lost sight of who he is supposed to serve.

After that, Adele talked to me.

--- I was not as obsessive as Julius, but I was rather apathetic and didn't care. I watched in disgust as you desperately tried to protect Cornelia. I didn't know how you did it. But it was fun to see you running around like that. It was strange that you would get into fights when I talked to you, but it was pretty fun.

--- But, um ... when we were 11. When I heard that you were having a fight with the Imperial faction, I was so angry that my blood boiled. Not because of Dirk and the others. But because of me. I was putting you in danger because I wasn't strong enough. After thinking about it, I ran off without hearing the teachers trying to stop me In the end, though, I made the mistake of pushing you in the river.

--- Since that day, I made up my mind. Tiana is a woman. If Tiana still wants to protect Cornelia-sama and the pride of the Principality of Arita, I will protect it for her. I'll become an honorable knight who will not shame you. I'm not sure if I'll be able to protect you from harm if I do that. Now that I think about it, I guess I felt like I was protecting you through Cornelia

--- You don't remember, but I went to see you at that time. I was at your bedside when you were asleep, and you called out for Julius? I was really hurt from that.

"Hyan ...!!"

The hot thing inside me gulped!!!! He pushes up hard, scraping my insides, the weakening lining of my insides.

"What are you thinking about?"

Adele looks up and asks in a lonely tone.

"Well ..."

"I can take it ... Hmm ..."

Adele lays me down while we're still connected, and thrusts upward with great force.

It's hitting me in the back. My body trembles and a whimpering sound echoes through the room.

"Ah ... phoo, Adele ...!!"

"I'm going to let it out once it's Hmm ... Ku ..."

The speed increases, the sound of skin slapping against skin echoed Adele releases his seed into me.

Huah, huah, I try to catch my breath

Adele's member doesn't get smaller. He keeps kissing and starts moving again, slowly.

"Tia ... I can still go many times"

"Adele ... I love you. After the evening party ... Thank you for coming out to pick me up, remember?"

Adele looks surprised after I suddenly speak, and gently strokes my cheek as I catch my breath.

"What's with that ... It's obvious. Do you know ... how much I regretted retreating at the time? When I thought about what you and Julius were doing, I thought I was going crazy. I wondered why I let go of your hand."

I kiss him.

"I was so happy. I felt like I was dreaming when I saw Adele ... even now that I'm here, sometimes I still wonder if it's still a dream?"

At my words, Adele's eyes flutter and he kisses me again.

"Do you really have to say something so cute right now? I'll tell you again and again that it's real From now on, we'll be together forever."

He starts moving my hips again.

"Yeah ... I ... I'll be a military doctor when I graduate from college, so I can go to the battlefield with you ..."

Adele's movement stops at my words, but he responds while pushing up.

"..... Huh?"

"So, I... when I get out of medical school, I'm going to be a doctor in the army, right? Then I can be with you, again ..."

The Empire is expanding further into the continent.

Even if Adele belongs to the Order of the Elite Knights of the Empire, he may soon appear on the front lines as a commander. Then I ...

"I thought we could go together, so I thought about my career path ..."

Adele's eyes widened as he smirked and looked up at me, thinking I was going to get a compliment

He lets out a long sigh and buries his face in my chest.

"What's wrong? Adele?"

Adele looks back at me, bewilderment, and anger in his expression ...

He looked puzzled.

"I'm going to impregnate you today, for sure."

He mutters, holding my legs tightly with his supple, muscular arms, and thrusts up hard to deflect me back.

My body arches back and the spot where he penetrated becomes hot. The nectar overflows with squelching thrusts.

Adele's fingers plucked at my very sensitive prick at the point of connection and gently tickled it.

"Ah ... mmm ... mmm ... wait ...! I'm gonna die ...!"

"I'll be with you until you die."

"No that's, not ... hey ... ugh ...!!"

And I really can't believe it.

On that day, I became pregnant with Adele's child (Adele's obsession).

When Adele found out, he mumbled that I was amazing, picked me up and spun me around, then huffed and apologized for being so worried, gently patted my stomach. Then he put his hand over his mouth and cried a little. I was surprised to see Adele cry for the first time, I laughed, and then hugged him and cried with him.

After that.

I delayed my college entrance and gave birth.

In the meantime, Adele had returned almost once every two weeks from Heilban(a distance that would normally take two full days by horse). And two years later, as I entered the Rutok Imperial University with our child, he was sent to the Knights of Rutok (Adele's obsession) and we lived together.

Cornelia, who gave birth to twins, but is pregnant again, and the Arita family seems to be very lively.

She said she sometimes teaches at the academy and talks about living with pride in the empire.

It is rumored that the Arita region is developing more and more talented people every year.

Our daughter is two years old.

She has hazel eyes that look just like Adele's, and she's starting to say some silly things, which is very endearing.

She looks like Adele, but Adele would introduce her to everyone with a straight face, saying that she inherited all of my angelic qualities.

"In 16 years, we will definitely eliminate the pairing system."

That's what Adele says.

I heard that Administrator Weber, who came to see Adele and Julius the other day, said that the rule of the Empire has become stable in the continent and that in order to unify more countries and peoples, a limit will be placed to its forceful control.

After I graduate from college, we will move to the Imperial Capital.

That's because it was decided that Adele would join the Knights of the Imperial Capital.

He says he'll seriously consider moving up.

" 'The Paired Generation' is starting to become the generation that's gaining power, but many of them are still dissatisfied with the Coming of Age Ceremony. The empire has grown so large that people like Dirk, who tried to cheat, can't even see it. If we can get more of the good people who are dissatisfied to move up, we might be able to change the system."

That's what Julius told me when he came to visit me the other day. It seems that Julius will be moving to the Knights Order in the Imperial capital in the near future.

If so, I'm secretly wondering if it's possible to provide supportive firepower from a medical perspective, I'll continue my research in the Imperial Capital.

(Incidentally, Julius said that when the mating system is abolished,

one of our sons should marry one of the two princesses!)

However.

I laugh a bit as I put the blanket on Adele and our daughter, who fell asleep while tucking her in.

I wonder if Adele would be upset if he knew that I was so selfishly grateful for the "pairing system"?

... Hmm. Well, I think I agree. I guess I'll have to thank Dirk, too.

Whether there is a "pairing system" or not.

You should cherish the time you have to say "I love you" to the person you love right in front of you.

One day, I'll tell you the story of our ridiculously dizzying month.

All this passes through my mind as I caress my daughter's head.

I kiss my husband and my daughter who looks exactly like me.

I love them now and forevermore.

SIDE STORY 1

Tiana.

How can I get you to look at me ... and show me a smile like that?

I checked the document three times.

On that day, the document was finally distributed to the seniors, envelopes sealed with wax.

Other students of the Knight course open their respective envelopes with a tense look.

The first time I thought it was a hallucination.

The second time I wanted to calm down.

The third time, I slowly lowered my right hand to my waist and squeezed it over and over again.

An important document that tells you your partner for the coming-of-age ceremony.

On my paperwork was the name I had been praying for a miracle for. Since the age of 11, I, Adele Berger, had only one thing I prayed for to God.

I never prayed to God for anything that I couldn't manage on my own. I couldn't let God's miracle be used in vain for such a thing.

No matter how difficult an exam, no matter how tough the selection process went, no matter if I had an important assessment the next day, or if I'd been seriously injured in a training exercise.

I never once prayed to God, and I was willing to die for the sake of it.

There is only one thing I entrusted to God.

--- Let me pair up with Tiana Klein for the "Adult Ritual".

I won my wager with God.

"Adele, who's your pair, Tiana?"

The day before the ceremony. My classmate Elmer approached me as I

was cleaning up after sword training, trying to keep my nerves in check and keep my composure.

"Wow, you guys are quite the pair. I think you're going to end up spending the whole night fighting."

"..... Well, you know. I don't know if I could get mine up with a girl like that."

Elmer laughed heartily, but Julius said he was envious, poking me with his elbows.

"-This coming from the guy who was paired with Cornelia."

Elmer nodded his agreement, hiding his inner annoyance.

"But Julius' love for Tiana is real. It wouldn't work out in this pairing system."

I said to myself. I was feeling depressed.

What would Tiana look like if she knew that Julius had always liked her and wanted to be paired with her?

Unfortunately, the reality is, Tiana's pair is me.

And I'm sorry, but I'm definitely not going to let Tiana hear about Julius' real feelings.

I can't have Tiana ... Even if I can't have her heart, I can have her body, I have no choice but to bet on this mating system.

Day of the "Adult Ritual".

I entered the designated private room early, which was a bit of a surprise to me.

Sit on the sofa by the window and face the door.

I try not to look at the bed that makes its presence known by the wall, but I do. And already my blood is gathering in certain parts of my body.

Calm down. It wouldn't be right to get hard at this stage, no matter how much I want to.

Because we fight like cats and dogs.

In fact, I was tempted to abstain for about ten days for this day and put everything I had into this.

Because I've been waiting for this day for seven years.

But if I did that, I would forget myself the moment I see Tiana naked (just thinking about it is killing me). I'd turn into a beast. I can't do that. Tiana would be confused and scared.

That's absolutely not good.

That's why I had to do a lot of self-treatment last night (which was easy considering what I was going to do today with Tiana), and go in today in a clear-minded, sane mode.

"Ahhhhh"

I'm restless. My chest is throbbing.

Is Tiana really coming?

I wonder if there is a mistake.

Is there such a thing as serendipity like this?

The person I've cherished the most.

Since we were kids.

At age 11, I couldn't change our relationship even after I realized my feelings.

I wanted her to look at me and laugh, and I wanted her to notice me, even with anger, rather than ignoring me completely.

It's a negative chain of events. Before I knew it, we had become the "two people who can't get along" that the entire class recognized.

Ahhhh.

It's been 12 years since the empire robbed us of our country.

I am aware that I hold no strong loyalty to the Principality of Arita, but I have never thought of the Empire as my homeland.

But just for this.

I'm sorry, everyone from the former Principality of Arita. I know it's bad for all the classmates who are having a hard time today.

Only now, I'm so ... so grateful to the Empire.

Because it's here, today I ...

The door opens without a knock.

Hey ...

I nervously pretend to be looking at the window, as I had planned from the beginning.

Tiana Klein enters the room.

A shiver runs down my spine.

It reminded me of the feeling I had when I had a serious hand-to-hand training session with a superior member of the Knight course.

She's not very tall. Just average.

Dark maroon hair flutters behind her, with a discreet beige ribbon tying the sides of her hair back.

Her forehead is white and smooth, making her look younger than her age of 18, but her round eyes are filled with wisdom and will, and she looks straight at me.

Now that we're a couple, I know the first thing she'll do when she sees me.

I sighed long and hard, as if I were breathing with Tiana.

I speak first:

"Why are you my partner ..."

*** * * * ***

“I don’t think I’ll ever get it up with you ...”

I practiced saying this four times in my imagination yesterday.

When she said, "Same here!" I couldn't help but laugh because it was a bit crushing.

“We don't like each other. We've established that ok? But let's think about the future now. Tonight, we can think of it as a job, an obligation and kill our hearts. It's like a tragic accident. There are some things in life that you just have to overcome. Do you understand?”

I was pretty seriously hurt when she told me that, as if she was saying it to her brother, asking him to just swallow it. Because that's all Tiana really feels, right?

Obligation. A tragic accident.

No, it's fine.

At best, we'll kill our hearts.

Don't underestimate my determination to make this day count.

I got up from the sofa.

*** * * * ***

Four times yesterday and twice this morning.

I hadn't done that much processing at once since I was 15, when I was at my peak in many ways.

And yet, all I had to do was look at Tiana sitting on the edge of the bed in her underwear, and I honestly thought ... oh, I don't know if I can do this anymore.

Her white and thin shoulders are shaking.

**The thin, pearly, shiny chemise is a little transparent and accompanied the outline of Tiana's supple breasts. I'm not sure what to make of it. It's so seductive that I lose my senses and I reach out ... and brush Tiana's shoulders, neck, and hair up
I move to close the space between our lips.**

My consciousness snapped back into place.

"No ... kissing is too much."

I mean, it's no good.

The urge to press my own lips against those pretty lips is overwhelming.

If I kiss her here, I ... I wouldn't be able to control my feelings anymore.

It'd be terrible as I devour Tiana.

Tiana would become confused by my actions. And may become scared.

I can't do it. Even now, I'm barely restraining my passion and pretending to be "reluctant," even though I'm at my limit.

"Oh, that's right. No kissing ... that should be saved for the person you like!"

Yes, Julius, right?

Tiana said this while letting the lines of her body show through her chemise.

"But you sure did grow a lot."

I can't believe I'm saying this.

Ahhhh, I'm acting so childish.

But with this circumstance, I was able to casually say what I've been dying to ask.

"Maybe it is your first time? Seeing and touching."

My heart rang. No, this is her first time, right? Definitely. Because, no matter what, she's a Countess, right?

“Well, it’s only natural?! What about you ...”

“I’m pretty normal.”

While I was answering automatically, in my heart I took deep breaths and fought down the urge to jump off the bed and thank God in heaven.

No, I’m not saying that if Tiana had experienced something by mistake (and I don’t think I could forgive the other guy) that it would change my feelings for her, but I’m still very happy that I’m the first person to do something like this with her. I’m very happy.

Anyway, just as planned, I’m going to show that I am very experienced.

That would surely make Tiana feel at ease, right?

Actually, I had experienced it once before at a parlor that my senior took me to ...

But in the process, Tiana said something out of the ordinary.

“You can often go there even though you like Cornelia-sama.”

What’s that ...

“It isn’t like that? But you’ve always loved Cornelia-sama since you were six years old. Maybe you’ve been working hard, hoping that you could be partnered with her.”

I knew it. I knew you were serious enough to say that on this night.

After deciding to protect Cornelia instead of Tiana, I tried to follow Cornelia as much as possible. If anything happens, I would rush before Tiana to help Cornelia.

Around the age of 15, Tiana muttered, “If Adele is here, Cornelia will definitely be safe,” and I was ecstatic ... Since then, I think Tiana has become even more distant from me.

I thought it was an acknowledgement of me as a knight ... Well, I had dimly noticed it, but I still thought that way. I’m an idiot. I’m not sure what to make of it, but I was sure it was a good idea.

I raised the corner of my mouth. A desperate attempt.

"You too ... Julius, I mean."

Oh, why are we like this?

It's a night I've been looking forward to for seven years.

No, don't be discouraged.

Don't give up on this. Don't throw it out.

Once we graduate from the academy and go to different cities, Tiana will never want to see me again, no matter how much we sleep together.

In that case, even though we had a great deal of trouble, our connection would easily be lost.

So absolutely.

In a month before graduation.

I have to have a child with Tiana.

For that reason, I'll use whatever method.

"If you don't like it, just close your eyes and pretend you're with Julius."

I dropped my lips on Tiana's chest.

SIDE STORY 2

Tiana's body was much more white, soft and beautiful than I had imagined.

Her smooth skin was so soft that every time my fingers touched it, it would tremble, and I couldn't help but love it. My fingers, hardened from gripping a sword all day, had no right to touch such a beautiful surface ... I couldn't resist and kissed her body.

Her plump breasts were usually squeezed under her clothes. Richer than I imagined, trembling and pointing upwards, with small, tiny, pale pink buds at the tips.

.....Unbearable.

I was absorbed in them and put the bud in my mouth.

Folding my tongue over it in my mouth, where it becomes harder from rolling it.

"Hmm ..."

At that time, Tiana made a terribly cute and sad voice from the back of her throat.

"What an erotic voice."

Tiana retorts in a formal tone for some reason. She's too cute. Very, very cute.

As I removed the rest of her clothes, Tiana's ... never-before-seen body was revealed, and the thought that I was the first and only person in the world to see and touch this beautiful naked body right now was enough to make me cum.

I feel like I'm going to die from excitement, so I say something about how she used to be a flat-chested girl.

Tiana, on the other hand, talks about frogs.

What are you talking about while you're exposing your naked body like this?

I mean, I mistook Cornelia's desk as yours, my treasured frog ...

"Okay ... Tiana-"

I whisper.

"-From here on, I'll be touching your ... deeper parts and it might hurt ... in order to pour my ... seed there. It's for the sake of continuing to live in this Empire. We're prepared."

Tiana.

You may hate me.

Your precious moment will be taken away by me, who you hate so much.

And you don't have to forgive me for my cunning in hiding my delight from you.

No matter what it takes, no matter how dirty it gets.

I don't want to break the connection with you.

I want you to be mine, at least in body.

"If it's too hard, you can call me Julius."

Even though I'm saying it, I still feel like crying

*** * * * ***

When I pushed in, Tiana's entrance was very hard at first.

Oh, I should have wet her better. I'm sorry. I'm sorry, Tiana.

But I can't stop at this point.

It's not my fault. She said she didn't want to be licked unless it was someone she liked.

That's not something I'm going to be able to help her with.

No, it's not your fault.

I'm sorry Tiana. You don't have to forgive me.

I pushed my way in.

The inside of Tiana is warm and ... warm and loose. It seems to be changing into my shape, but it's tightening up.

**Tears shine in Tiana's tightly closed eyes.
I'm sorry, Tiana. I'm sorry.**

I like you. I love you.

You will resent me if you know that this day that is so distressing to you, may have been the result of my seven years of praying to God.

However.

**"If you're about to cry, close your eyes."
Tiana closed her eyes tightly. I kissed her eyelids, barely hovering over them so she wouldn't notice.
I like you, Tiana.**

My feelings for you

**The sound of smacking skin began.
I embrace Tiana like crazy.
That was our first night.**

*** * * * ***

**The next day. The schoolgirls were examined.
I don't know how the process goes, but it seems that they determine whether they may become pregnant or not.**

**I don't like the fact that this ritual imposes a burden only on girls.
If there are any signs of fertilization, it seems that the other party will also be informed.**

--- I didn't get any news.

**At the end of the restless day, I met Tiana in the hallway.
Tiana didn't seem to notice that I was there, just staring at Julius.
Her eyes moistened, and her flowery lips formed the tiniest hint of a smile.**

**Just once.
If you look at me with such a cute face and say "Adele", I won't need anything else.**

But what I did was like splashing water on such a happy Tiana.

“You’re staring too much, you should be careful from now on.”

After whispering something nasty and leaving, I still wanted to embrace Tiana again as soon as possible.

We are only connected as a pair, but when I hold her, she is my own Tiana.

*** * * * ***

The day I first called Tiana away, I was terribly nervous.

**Tiana wouldn't expect to have a second time.
She would believe that the only time she would ever have to have sex with me was the first and last time.**

**I have no choice but to wield my power as a ... partner.
It was the only way to hold her close to me.**

About my career path, about the Empire. She even suggested that I

should file a lawsuit.

Tiana seemed desperate to avoid acting with me, presenting all sorts of ideas.

Do you hate it so much?

I knew it, but I still had to laugh.

"I don't care about your feelings, you and I are now bound together. I have a burden to hold you."

That's a lie.

The truth is, I want your feelings the most.

But I can never say that.

Instead, I decided to make Tiana feel really good today.

For that purpose, first ...

"Press your hands on the bed. Then we won't have to see each other's faces."

Tiana's face twisted in humiliation, but she still turned away. I lifted her skirt and used my fingers to accustom it a little, and before Tiana could realize what was going on, I opened her clammy pussy with my fingertips and put my lips to it.

"Well, why did you say it's no good ... huh ..."

Sure enough, Tiana protests.

"It doesn't feel soft and comfortable."

I slowly lick it from below ... I insert my tongue inside as it tightens in, and carefully loosen her with my tongue.

Make it soft and increase her amount of juice as much as possible.

Otherwise, Tiana, you won't feel good.

I know you don't like it. It's such an important part of you ... But I'm begging you, please bear with me.

I pressed myself against Tiana's soft, melting, overflowing entrance.

The moment I entered her, I gasped at the pleasure that rushed up my

spine and into my head.

I held Tiana for the rest of the day.

SIDE STORY 3

"Hmm ... Hmm ..."

Tiana lets out an insanely sweet voice from the back of her throat. Struggling, cute lips huffed open, eyebrows raised, and my favorite round eyes filled with only me.

The bookcase that Tiana rests her back against makes a creaking sound.

I'm so excited that the smell of old books makes my oxygen feel thin.

The thin, white fingertips clinging desperately to my shoulders...straining.

Oh, my God.

It's amazing.

I'm so happy to be able to do this face to face.

"You can control your voice ...? We're a pair. Won't it be embarrassing if anyone hears?"

"Stupid, stupid ..."

Tiana replied to my teasing with a quivering voice and looked up at me in tears, as if she was afraid that her voice would echo in the hall.

In the middle of the day, at the corner of the library attached to the academy, I hold Tiana close.

After the sword practice was over, I returned to the school feeling good, but my mood dropped when I saw Tiana and Julius walking along the corridor, talking happily.

Tiana always tries her best to look up and talk to Julius, who is much taller than her, as if she wants to see his face as much as possible.

It's a far cry from the way she always looks off at an angle when she talks to me.

**Tiana always tries to carry any large load by herself.
Even if it is high up, she will find a way to get it by herself.
When she can't carry or reach something, she never tries to ask for
help from others.**

I like that about her.

**But sometimes, when I see her trying to climb another platform on top
of the chair, I can't help but get frustrated and wonder why she doesn't
ask me, even though she knows I'm in the same room.**

**But that didn't mean that I couldn't help her before.
Suddenly doing that would make her feel uncomfortable. She might
think I'm planning something.**

**At such times, while I'm frustrated, Julius always appears and helps
Tiana as usual. At first Tiana is embarrassed, but then she's pushed
along and gives Julius a smile that she never shows me.**

**But now it's different.
Tiana and I are in a relationship.
It wouldn't be strange if I helped. It's okay for me to offer.
I mean, why doesn't she ask me?**

**I take the book from Julius and head to the library without saying
anything, then put my hand in Tiana's skirt, and made a startling
accusation, "Isn't it wet just by talking to Julius?"**

I admit that many years of jealousy exploded here.

**In our uniforms, I pushed Tiana against the bookshelf, lifted one leg,
and entered her folds.**

**Tiana's entrance tightens around me more than usual, like she's
scared.**

I felt a thrill in her frightened eyes.

Rely on me more.

Leave everything to me until you start to think you can't do something without me.

I'm asking you.

Please.....

"What do you think? She got here ahead of us, so maybe she's still around."

The voices of Julius and the others come from just beyond the bookcase.

Tiana, who has her back turned, may hear them close by, but glancing through a gap in the books, I see that they are in a blind spot across the aisle,....., which is fine.

When I looked down to tell her so, Tiana was staring up at me with a face that seemed to carry all her fear on her chest.

She looked as if she was clinging to me as I held all of her fate in my hands.

I continued to thrust into Tiana from below, letting my emotions take over.

Desperately, Tiana's thin wrist presses against her pretty mouth to keep her voice down, I lightly grab and pull it off.

Tiana looks up at me in disbelief.

I want you to surrender to me more and more.

Cling to me.

"Tia is well informed on the latest trends, she can give you good ideas."

My arousal was replaced by the sound of Julius' voice, and the inside

of Tiana's, clenching ...! I'm not sure what to do, but I'm going to do it.

Don't be silly.

Don't tighten up thinking about him and then make me come.

"Your insides get really tight after hearing his voice ... Are you imagining him holding you?"

Tiana breathes in short gasps. Tears well up in her eyes. She's already at her limit.

Even though I know this, I squeezed Tiana's weakest point with my fingertips.

The inside of her, from the entrance to the back, all at once tightens, and Tiana's lips open, about to scream.

No. I can't hold back anymore.

I release my seed into Tiana

I selfishly press my lips against her cute, cute lips.

*** * * * ***

I looked down at Tiana sleeping on the bed in the medical office.

Her expression, eyes closed as she sleeps, looks terribly young.

I wondered how unreasonable my desire was to her weak state.

I'm a beast.

I was so impatient about Tiana not smiling at me, getting jealous on my own, and I went out of control ... I really hate myself for doing such a thing in such a place.

What's more, in the heat of the moment, I even kissed her after holding back so well.

I have no self-discipline at all. I'm really sick and tired of taking it all out on Tiana

"---sorry."

I stroked her soft chestnut hair.

Tiana woke up and didn't blame me (it was embarrassing to be told I was acting jealous).

What should I do?

I couldn't even control my jealousy, so I took advantage of Tiana's kindness.

Using our pairing as an excuse.

Forcing her fear to the point of fainting and straining her body.

For the next few days, I restrained myself from approaching Tiana.

It's my punishment.

The truth is, even while doing this, it seemed strange thinking that graduation was growing ever closer.

Our relationship will end if we don't make a child before then.

But what if Tiana is fine with that outcome?

If I could just say one thing.

If I say, "Julius also likes you."

That's the best and only way I can make Tiana happy.

I know, but after school on the second day, I came to the subject building where Tiana and her friends were.

Can I feign innocence?

Can I force her to leave without saying a word?

I wandered while thinking about that.

"Adele!"

Cornelia appeared behind me.

"Don't look so blatantly disappointed.-"

She makes a cheeky smile.

"-If you're looking for Tia, go back to the dormitory in the afternoon ...-"

She spoke, tapping her lips, and smiles mischievously.

"-Maybe she went to the men's dormitory?"

"What for?"

Cornelia opened her eyes a little and showed a mysterious smile, saying that Tia was also difficult.

"I'm looking for Julius... do you know where he is?"

"Oh, he was at the stable a while ago."

Cornelia looked happy, thanked me, and walked away.

I watched her walk away with a smile on my face.

Cornelia loves Julius.

I've been watching her closely for the last few years and realized it pretty quickly.

Julius's family is a family of knight captains who have pledged allegiances to the Arita family for generations.

Cornelia is the only daughter, and if the Principality had not disappeared, Cornelia and Julius would have remained united.

I think Julius has been doing a good job as the son of the knight captain even after the Principality was destroyed.

Julius has always been next to Cornelia, a natural scenery to the rest of us.

But since some time ago, he started saying that he loved Tiana and that she was more his type.

Not only in front of the men but also when Cornelia was around.

Cornelia smiles like she's watching over her brother, but ... I can sense her sadness.

Julius, don't screw around, I mean that in every sense of the word.

He may have a lot of things to carry, things he wants to throw away, but who cares?

You should just carry it on your back maturely on your own.

When I see Cornelia looking at Julius with such an aching heart I can't help but compare to my own situation, unable to fulfill my feeling for Tiana.

However, I was surprised when I heard that they were paired ...

Is it going well?

No, I shake my head.

You can't afford to worry about other people.

I'm pathetic, I'm just like Julius.

I head to the men's dormitory.

Side Story 4: Adele Chapter 4

That was my 16th birthday, so it was almost two and a half years ago. I had spent the day without feeling particularly emotional about the fact that it was my birthday but when I left the auditorium after my economics lecture, I saw Tiana standing there, and I suddenly became aware that it was my birthday.

Tiana stood with a tense face, hugging a small ... light blue package to her chest.

"Adele ..."

She calls me with an angry face. My cheeks tint red.

It's been so long since she's spoken to me on her own that I'm quite upset, which is pathetic. I realized that today was my birthday, and that made me conscious of the package that Tiana was carrying, even if I didn't want to.

**"What ... what a creepy thing for you to call out to me. What did you come here to complain about? Did something happen to Cornelia?"
What? What is this line? Don't tell me I'm saying that?**

Tiana's expression quickly changed.

"If something happened to Cornelia-sama, I'm not obligated to report it to you, you idiot."

"Then what is it? I mean, what the hell is that?"

I was too curious and pointed to the package that Tiana was holding.

"This is ..."

"Hey, it's Tia. What's going on?"

Julius, who had come out of the auditorium late, called out to us happily, and I clicked my tongue.

Tiana sees Julius and smiles as if she was saved.

"Julius-sama ...! Oh, um ... I was wondering if you'd like to take a look at this"

She presented the package to Julius.

"What? What is this?"

Julius hurriedly put his things back under his arm, took the package, and opened the seal.

"Wow, sweets? These are my favorite. Did Tia make them?"

"Well ... they're not that good. I'm still practicing ..."

Leaving me behind, the two of them walked happily shoulder to shoulder.

That night, I followed my senior to the city at night for the first time, which he had always invited me to do.

At first glance, I thought it was just a place that served light drinks, but it was an unspoken agreement that it was such a place, and as soon as we sat down, a woman approached us. For the first time, I experienced what men and women do.

I felt that I could have done it with anyone.

There was some momentary pleasure, but the feeling of emptiness and self-loathing afterward was too much for me, and that was the end of it.

I really wondered why people would find meaning in such an act, but then I thought about what it would be like to do that with ... Tiana. I was so excited that I could not stop imagining it, and I felt depressed again, and then I felt nauseous when I thought that Tiana would eventually do that with someone in the same class, who I didn't know, at her coming of age ceremony.

I absolutely have to pair with Tiana, after all.

I renewed my determination.

I couldn't help but remember.

Less than three years have passed since that day. Now, I'm sucking Tiana's little toe as she lies on the bed in a state of disarray in a small room in a remote location of the house bathed in the dusk.

"No, stop, Adele ... huh ..."

Tiana shyly raises her irresistibly cute voice.

Small and thin, with a slightly rounded tip, even down to her little toes, Tiana is very pretty.

I continued to lick and suck on her toes, working my way up from her small round ankles, to her thin ankles(that is what is originally written), to her white calves ... and up. As I lifted her legs, I could see the hidden area that always fascinates me, Tiana's entrance. Beyond her torso, Tiana's face shuddered with tears.

The reason I remembered my 16th birthday was probably because I ate Tiana's baked sweets. I have fulfilled my long-cherished wish of two and a half years and finally ate Tiana's homemade sweets. They were very sweet and delicious.

Above all, I was so happy to hear from Tiana that she thought I was tired and made them for me, I almost ... wanted to cry.

But on the other hand, Tiana is seriously saying something like I shouldn't care if her body gets injured or not.

That's impossible for me.

I can't allow even a ... touch on Tiana's body. I'm not sure what I would've done to that bastard Dirk if he had hurt even a hair on her head.

And yet, Tiana is looking at me like that? Even though we've been laying on top of each other for so long, doesn't she feel any of my love at all?

"Your body isn't full of scratches after all."

Her skin is milky, soft, and smells sweet everywhere.

To me, it's like a miracle, like a treasure that can't be replaced by anything in the world.

How can I tell her that? How will she take good care of herself?

Thinking about it makes me want to laugh a little.

Take care of herself ...? How can I say such a thing when I'm the one who's holding her down of my own volition?

Nevertheless.

"Amazing, your overflowing."

Tiana squeezes and a warm and irresistible sensation envelops around my two rugged fingers. Tiana's naked body twitches and shivers on the bed as I move my fingers inside her.

I want to hear that voice more and more, so I tease and torment Tiana a lot.

With just two of my fingers, Tiana is in such a state of disarray, crying out and exposing her body sporadically, and making cute noises.

At first, I held back from kissing.

I knew that if I kissed her, I would be overwhelmed with feelings.

But I realized that there was no way I could keep from kissing her.

I cover Tiana's lips with my own. I couldn't stop myself from speaking my mind.

**"If another guy touches your body the way I do... I will never forgive it."
"**

"Adele, Adele ..."

Tiana reaches out to me crying. Clinging to my neck.

Too cute. It's unbearable.

"I will never forgive even Julius ..."

No. I'm already at my limit.

Despite everything, I want to tell Tiana my feelings ... I want to tell her that I love her so much I might go crazy if I don't.

(Note: After side story 4 it went to Chapter 1 and no SIDE STORY 5. The next is SIDE STORY 6 after SIDE STORY 4.)

Side Story 6: Adele Chapter 6

"A-Adele, why don't you dance?"

When I left Julius and returned to the hall, the orchestra began playing a waltz.

Tiana's invitation (chewing) soothes my frustration with him and myself, after remembering my conversation with Julius earlier.

To be honest, dancing in front of everyone in the same school was quite a hurdle for me, as I had chosen to live completely as a knight. But if Tiana invites me like this, I have no choice but to accept, right? No matter what anyone else says, I'm Tiana's partner tonight.

"I'm honored, princess."

I thought I was being overzealous, but when Tiana heard my words, she rolled her eyes wide and shrugged her shoulders in embarrassment, and then she smiled like she was going to burst I felt so happy that I could forgive everything, even what Julius had said earlier.

I place my hand on Tiana's thin waist. She looks up at me and smiles innocently when our eyes meet.

**Tiana has been looking forward to this evening party.
Is it fun? I'm glad I get to see her enjoying herself nearby.**

Tiana, if ...

If that smile is here with me, no matter how much I ...

The song ends.

I had a premonition.

"Can I cut in?"

Julius taps me on the shoulder.

--"Do you think you can get Tia by dancing just one song?"

I'm aware of Julius' intentions to have me give in easily by setting up

this kind of scenerio.

I was wondering what he wanted to do.

What if Tiana has a happy face?

What if she's too self-conscious to tell me?

I gave up my place to Julius without looking at Tiana.

Julius mentions something about Cornelia, but I don't listen.

I leave without looking back.

"Adele, are you okay? You have a scary face on."

Someone talks to me.

What the hell am I doing?

When I turned around, I saw Julius swirling and dancing in the center of the hall.

--"Do you think you can get Tia by dancing just one song?"

That's right.

I turn on my heels.

I ignore the people I bump into, complaining as I pass them, and continued ... pulling Julius' shoulder as he danced with his face close to Tiana's.

I'm afraid that Julius won't dance just one song and ruin everything I've built up with Tiana in the last few weeks.

Is it bad?

I'm scared of losing Tiana more than I originally thought.

"Julius, I'm sorry, but I'm the one who's escorting her."

The only time I let go of Tiana's hand is when she rejects me.

Going through the hall, outside the entrance, pulling Tiana into a blind spot where the light doesn't shine.

I turned around and hugged her confused figure.

Until now, Tiana's body had been surprisingly thin and small, and I would gently touch her, afraid that I might break her. However. Pulling Tiana's shoulders with both hands and hugging her tightly. Her soft body and a sweet scent from her fluffy hair.

"Adele, it hurts ..."

I cover Tiana's lips as she makes a puzzled sound.

Pressing her body against the wall and push my tongue into her mouth.

My tongue touched Tiana's, not allowing it to escape deep inside, entangling it, sucking it out...

Once our lips parted, I mercilessly devoured them again.

How long did we spend like this...

We parted our lips.

Saliva trickled down between them, and Tiana looked up at me with stunned, moist eyes!

"Sorry."

I'm sorry to scare you. I'm sorry to surprise you.

And ...

"You were dancing with Julius, but ... I disturbed you two."

"Did you dance with Cornelia-sama? You're stupid. I don't think there'll be another chance anymore ..."

Cornelia? I think I saw her before or something like that.

"... I want to hold you here right now."

"No, that's impossible."

The tempo is good and they laugh at each other.

She replied quickly, and we both couldn't help but laugh.

I just want to keep laughing. Laughing with Tiana.

Tiana looked like she wanted to say something, but then Elmer appeared and said that the Imperial faction was coming to the main gate. When I heard that Julius was on his way, I wanted to click my tongue.

Why didn't he wait for me?

I instruct Tiana to return to the hall, then Elmer and I headed for the stables.

"Adele!"

Tiana called me.

I turned around and looked at Tiana's expression.

I will remember it over and over again tonight.

For some reason ... her expression was like that of a lost child.

Why? I wanted to run back and hug her right away.

"When you come back, I have something to tell you!"

"Me too!"

Yes, me too.

I'll tell you when I come back.

I'll tell you my feelings, so listen well, Tiana.

From that moment on, my memory is a mess.

I reprimanded the Imperial students who had gathered their carriages at the main gate and were shouting to be let inside, and we asked who their representative was.

"Dirk Neuman," one said, and I remembered his disgusting smile from earlier that evening.

"But Dirk is not here."

"Didn't he go inside? He said the back gate was empty."

One of his cronies said with a grin.

As if driven by an unpleasant premonition in my heart, I pulled on the reins, turned my horse and ran back up the hill.

When I got back to the main entrance of the villa and jumped off my horse, a frightened-looking Leni jumped out from the darkness of the front yard.

"Adele, Tiana is ...!"

I jumped into the garden faster than I could hear her voice.

"Your real partner is not Adele Berger, I'm sorry Tiana!"

The man shouted. I heard a desperate laugh.

On the moonlit lawn, precious, precious Tiana in her amber dress that looked so good on her.

Her face was pale when our eyes met

"Tiana!"

Tiana's body lost its strength and collapsed into my arms.

Side Story 7: Adele Chapter 7

At first, Administrator Neumann didn't care what we were talking about, but when Dirk Neumann, the man we turned in, admitted what he had done with a scowl on his face, his color quickly changed.

He checked the documents from the back of the room and the combination between us and looked as if he was biting down on a bitter bug.

"--- Indeed. It seems that the matches of the two pairs have been tampered with. How could this have happened ..."

"It must have been deliberately rearranged, as your son said."

Julius, sitting on a chair spoke slowly.

I stood behind him in an irritated mood.

"Dirk, why did you do such a thing ..."

Dirk Neumann looks in the direction of the day after tomorrow with an expression that seems to reflect his decision to confess.

"Why didn't you notice until now?"

I ask from behind Julius as if to add to his earlier statement.

"That's enough. You don't want word to spread any further about what your son has done. Enough is enough, make your son swear never to speak of such things lightly again."

Administrator Neumann does not move and silently looks at the documents in his hands.

"You're the ones!"

Dirk screams suddenly. A nasty smile on is ugly mug.

"You're the ones to blame! You've been disrespecting people for years. Noblemen from a devastated country! The only people I particularly disliked were you ... you and Tiana Klein, Adele Berger!"

Dirk stands up from his chair and points at me.

"I thought it would be nice if the famous cat-and-dog were paired and had a hard time! But somehow, you guys look like you're getting along

..... How did you manage to corrupt the Countess, Adele"
Julius quickly took control of my body as I stepped forward, aiming for his dirty mouth.

"Shut up Dirk"
Administrator Neumann says in a low voice.

"My son seems to be somewhat delirious. He moved from the imperial capital to this remote area because of my work, and I think he was worried, too. The former nobles of the Principality are tightly knit... for lack of a better word, they're exclusive."

"That doesn't explain why he did what he did."
I doubted what Administrator Neumann said when he continued, ignoring Julius.

"..... You lot ... especially you back there, are quite hot-tempered. Sure, my son directly modified the paperwork, but who's to say you weren't the ones to force him to do so? "

*** * * * ***

I reluctantly accepted Julius' suggestion to retreat and plan countermeasures because I was worried about Tiana, whom I left at Arita residence.

It's almost midnight.
It was sad to see the unlit lanterns still hanging on both sides of the slope leading up to the mansion covered in darkness.

Upon returning to the room, Tiana got up and sat next to Cornelia. I was relieved, but I was worried about Tiana's dark expression and the fact that she was not looking at me.
And after a brief argument. Tiana spoke. Clearly.

"..... I would be very happy if I could be paired with Julius-sama."
The room was wrapped in silence.

Mysteriously, at that point, I didn't feel any shock nor did my heart freeze.

However, I quietly looked at Tiana.

Her small shoulders shiver.

All right, Tiana. You don't have to be afraid of anything.

I'll get rid of everything that threatens you.

"--Tiana, look up, look into my eyes, and say it again."

Tiana raises her face.

Those round, deep green eyes. I really liked your straightforwardness, your willpower, and your righteousness.

"You already know this, Adele? I've always liked Julius-sama."

She smiled, slightly annoyed.

"I've been thinking recently that being with you was more comfortable than I expected, but in the end, you're still not Julius."

Earlier, when Julius and Tiana danced together in the hall.

Yes, it feels like it was just a moment ago.

At that time I swore.

Unless Tiana herself rejects me, I will never let go of you.

When I heard Dirk shout.

From the moment I heard that Tiana wasn't my original match.

I've been so scared since then.

I knew it.

I knew you'd give me an answer like this.

I'm sorry. I should have released you properly.

"..... Yes, that was the case."

Can I touch you one last time?

The truth is, I want to hug you and press my lips against yours.

However.

I gently stroke Tiana's soft maroon hair.

"..... I'm happy for you."

I turn on my heels.

If I stay here any longer, I would have destroyed everything.

*** * * * ***

**I was guided to the guest bedroom on the second floor of the main building. I fell on my back on a large bed.
I'm terribly tired.**

**The core of my head felt like it was burning feverishly, and I couldn't think straight.
I lazily look up at the pattern on the ceiling.**

**Suddenly.
I felt familiar with this ceiling, and I looked around.**

--- "Adele, Adele."

**The distant past. In the back of my mind.
Yes, I was ... about 12 years old?
That's right, everyone was gathered at the tea party at the Arita house because it was a celebration for our elementary school graduation.**

**Beautiful mansion, delicious sweets and drinks.
Everyone dressed up ... yes, that happened.
The kids were a bit pretentious at first, but eventually, their true**

colors came out Yes, I think this room was among the several rooms I sneaked into to explore the mansion.

I get up. The white, gently curved pillars and the paintings of the harbor on the wall are also familiar.

--- “Adele, was the sweet you had delicious?”

Looking out the window. There, yes, yellow ...? A twelve-year-old Tiana stood there in a yellow dress that looked like amber.

I was a little flustered and nervous when she suddenly spoke to me... so I replied bluntly with a "What?"

--- “The pastries from earlier. They’re so soft, they were made by Cornelia-sama. I ate three, too.”

Tiana looks at me with a slightly angry face.

--- Is it okay if you had three of them? I had a lot of them.

--- Did you enjoy it? You said they were delicious.

--- What's wrong if I say it's delicious?

It's not bad, it's not ...

Tiana's words, what was she about to say?

I think the adults came and told us not to go into this room without permission. I think she got angry and left it at that.

The pastries that Tiana had mentioned at the time. I'd completely forgotten about it ... but suddenly the image of it took shape in my memory.

" ‘Of course, mine aren’t even close to the ones made by Cornelia-sama’ ...”

The other day, behind the dormitory, I connected the crushed pastries from the bag I stole from Tiana.

"--- What does it mean"

It may not mean anything.

Maybe it's just a coincidence.

However.

I wondered if there were many, many things that I should have realized in what I had looked away from, dismissing them as meaningless.

"Adele ... are you okay?"

The door of the room opens and Cornelia comes in alone.

No, no.

It can't be.

At the village festival, under the lantern lights, Tiana looked up at me and wept.

Tiana looked down and said anxiously, "I thought you were avoiding me."

Tiana took my hand and looked up at me with a happy smile as we danced.

From the bottom of my abdomen, a feeling of frustration like pushing up suddenly struck.

There's no such truth anywhere, even if everything was my misunderstanding.

Even if I'm wrong about all of this, there's no truth to it.

There's no reason for me to just let this end without telling her anything.

"Cornelia ..."

When I got up from the bed, Cornelia's shoulders flinched.

"Sorry. I ... I can't go back to being your knight anymore."

"Eh ... Adele !? Where are you going?"

With Cornelia's impatient voice behind me ... I stepped out into the hallway and kicked the red carpet with vigor and ran.

God,

Please allow me to pray once again.

Please, somehow, please let me make it in time.

Side Story 8: Adele Chapter 8

----- “Adele, I'm really looking forward to tonight.”

Tiana's voice from just a few hours ago echoes in my head. When she looked out the carriage window at me with a childish smile.

I turned to the long corridor and go down the stairs.

I stepped into the corridor that connected the main building to the remote area.

I know that there is a row of guest bedrooms on the second floor of the detached house.

I raise my eyes and see that only a few of them are lit.

I kick in a door at one end.

"Wait, Adele!!!"

I can hear Cornelia's voice from behind, I'll apologize later for ignoring her.

As I try to run through the corridor.

I don't know why I decided to look there, even after all this time.

However, I scan the front yard of the mansion on my left ... Now it's sunk in darkness.

Perhaps relieved that I had stopped, Cornelia caught up with me.

At the very back of the yard, in the dark ... I saw a small shadow moving.

At that moment, I move to jump over the fence of the path without thinking about anything.

Kick the grass at my feet and run straight.

There is only one, one thing, on my mind.

"----- Adele !!!!!!"

"Tiana !!!!!!!!!!"

**The shadow slumped and fell forward.
I slid my body into it just in time before it fell to the ground.**

**I hugged her soft, small, thin, trembling body into my chest.
Unconsciously hugging her tighter and tighter.**

**I felt that if I loosened the strength in my hand even for a moment
it would be taken away from me.**

**The beating of Tiana's heart and the soft touch of her body is felt even
through my clothes.**

I relaxed a little and looked at Tiana's face.

**Her hair is in a mess, sticking to her forehead and cheeks. Leafs were
tangled in her hair.**

**Even the top of her nose is covered with mud..... What happened to
you?- you were so beautifully made up earlier.**

I think she may have been crying.

I gently stroke Tiana's forehead.

"You look terrible are you hurt? Are you okay?....."

"I love you, Adele!"

Tiana looked up into my eyes as she spoke.

I'm not sure what to say, but seh continues.

**"I love you the most. I've always loved you. I've loved you ever since
we were kids. I don't want to forget it, uhm, there's no way I can. I
don't like anyone else. Only you"**

"Me too."

I've wanted this for a long, long time.

**I had been hesitating for a long time, wondering what I would do if I
reached out and failed**

"I've always loved you, only you ... I've always loved you."

"No, I've liked you longer than you've liked me."

"No, I've loved you longer."

"No, I have."

"No, me!!"

"Ah, be quiet and give up!!"

Our eyes meet.

Deep green, round eyes. For a long time, I've wanted you to see only me in them, and now.

"..... I thought I was going crazy."

I whisper and press my lips on Tiana's to hide the fact that I was about to cry.

"I love you."

I've been meaning to say it for so long.

*** * * * ***

"Hey, wait a minute Adele!!!!"

The next day, in the middle of the day, I had Tiana on a horse, riding with her at a high speed.

I love how Tiana clings to my chest as if frightened by how fast I'm going. I wanted to hug her right now on the side of the road, but I struggled to hold back with my last remaining reason.

Running out of control, we run to my house.

Behind the house, in front of the stable, my brother Wim was feeding the horses with his attendants.

"Brother? What? What's wrong with that person Tiana-sama!?"

He's not sure what to make of this. However, it was natural for him to be surprised when I suddenly brought her to him on horseback.

"I'm going to use the guest room. Don't let anyone come near."

"What? Hey, brother ...!?"

I left my brother, who was red and confused, and crossed the hall. There is my private room, which I don't come back often to since I moved to the dormitory at the school.

We enter the room and I set Tiana down on the bed.

"I can't look at Wim's face after this"

Tiana was turning red as I kissed her and frustratingly untied her. I think I'm going to explode. I'm not sure what to do.

Last night. After what happened.

To be honest, I didn't really care what happened after that, because all that mattered to me was that Tiana and I came to terms with our feelings.

I decided that we had to leave the Empire before dawn.

I was hoping that we could be picked up from the port by a friendly merchant ship and the two of us could cross over to the other side of the ocean.

It was Cornelia who stopped us.

"Forget it, just come with me to see the Administrator."

Seeing Lady Cornelia insist in a decisive tone, Tiana complied while I followed her with impatience.

As a result, the information that we heard confused Tiana a lot, but for me, I have a lot to say, but in short, I'm going to punch Julius.

To be honest I was still undecided about the idea of leaving this Empire and going to a foreign country with Tiana.

I wish we could be together forever.

And if they don't get in the way I'd even prefer that.

I wanted to take all of Tiana into me, and I couldn't help it.

"Hmm,, wait, Adele,"

I started with her forehead.

Her eyelids, lower lashes, top of her cheeks, tip of her nose, and the bone above her ears (IDK). I ran my tongue along the shape of her ears and gently licked her earlobes.

Laying my own body on top of Tiana's naked body, rubbing against her, and whisper in her ear.

"I love you, Tiana."

Tiana's body trembles at my whisper as she kept her eyes down in embarrassment, and I can see the blood gathering at her ears. Every cell in my body wants Tiana right now. I know that much.

It's like I've been in the desert forever.

"Don't do this Don't say that while you're doing this"

"No."

Trace her lips with my fingertips and place the tip of my tongue against them.

" This, it's embarrassing"

She stirs.

I kiss her deeply, then gently separate our lips so that our foreheads can press against each other.

"Is there anywhere else I haven't touched yet?"

I whispered as I licked the other ear, then traced her soft breast, and kissed the nib.

Tiana's breathing is getting faster.

My own breath is as hot as hers.

"Hooh"

Her sweet voice. Let me hear more.

I trace the tips of her breasts with the tip of my tongue and put one hand over Tiana's mouth, making her open her soft lips.

"I love your body, every inch of it I love you so much."

I can say that I like her as much as I want.

I can love her while saying exactly what I think.

That fact alone is enough to make me feel like I'm already ascending.

I couldn't resist, so I made Tiana open her legs wide.

From below, I pushed up with my abdomen to make her spread her legs.

"What the?"

I don't know if I've ever seen her like this from the front in such a brightly lit room.

I look down at it, completely facing up.

Beyond her entrance that fascinates me, my eyes meet Tiana's as she looks up at me with teary eyes and a red face.

She was horrified.

"I can see you."

My voice trails off. Slowly, I lick my lips with the tip of my tongue.

As if to show her what I was about to do to her.

"Huh, no...ahhh....."

I started from the bottom, slowly ... licking, and opened her folds.

Her juice begins to pour out

I stick my tongue inside her.

It was hot and sweetly tight.

I pushed my tongue further in and rubbed her clit with my finger.

"No?"

I let go of her entrance and sat up to stare at her.

"It's okay since we like each other, isn't it?"

"No!"

I grinned back at Tiana's face.

I went back, this time licking her clit with my tongue and burying my finger inside.

It was hot and throbbing. I slowly rub inside. I raised my head up with my finger still buried in her.

"Oh, no, no, no, I can't..."

I grabbed Tiana's wrist to prevent her from hiding her face and looked into her eyes.

"Tell me you like me."

"... What?"

When Tiana looks at me with tears in her eyes, I say a little too quickly. I'm starting to feel like I'm running out of time.

"I've been saying it all day. Tell me you like me too."

"I"

Tiana rolls her eyes and looks up at me.

"Stupid"

I was happy to see her smile, but a little frustrated, and rubbed inside Tiana, inside of her.

"Kya--!"

"Say it."

Tiana looked at me with tears in her eyes as she put her hands over her mouth

"I love I've always loved you. I love you more than anything in the world, more than anyone"

Yes, I've reached my limit.

I press my lips against Tiana's as I pulled my fingers out of her folds.

"I'm coming in."

"Wait, I can't continue."

"Don't worry, we can still go again and again."

I pushed into her as she squeezed where she would accept me, and me alone, for the rest of my life.

"I love you, Tiana"

From the point where we were connected, I felt a stirring pleasure and a tingling sense of happiness.

"I'll never let you go again, even if you say you don't want to I'll never, ever make you cry again."

"I don't care if I cry."

Tiana cupped my cheek with her hands and looked up at me.

"I don't care how much crying I've done or will do. It's okay as long as I'm with Adele. If I can laugh with Adele afterwards, I'm fine with that"

I feel like I'm going to cry.

Or maybe I'm already crying.

**I intertwine my fingers with Tiana's and drop a kiss on her lips for the-
I don't know how many times today.**

Side Story 9: Adele Epilogue

"Adele !! Would you like to eat inside together?"

The road that connects the Arita region to the imperial metropolis of Heilban has been incredibly improved in the last 12 years, creating a post town with inns and restaurants scattered along the road.

In that relatively large town, we had to rest as planned on the first night.

This morning we left the former Principality of Arita, where we spent 18 years.

This is to join the Knights under the direct control of the Empire in Heilban up in the north.

It takes a full two days to Hailban with the horses resting properly. While I was in school, I had visited many times for missions and procedures as a representative of the Knight course, but when it comes to moving my home base, I really ... feel tired and far away.

I had my beloved horse eat in the stable, and when I came out, I was called out.

"Okay. I've got something for you."

I glanced over at Julius and raised the package in my hand.

Tiana gave it to me this morning at the time of departure.

One for the day, one for the night.

I wanted to eat everything with all my might.

"Is that so? Well then, I'll get something too. Let's eat together!"

A servant girl came out of the back door of a nearby inn and watched Julius running, her cheeks flushed with fascination.

I got fed up and left.

This time, there are only two people from our academy who belong to

the Heilban Knights, Julius and I.

I didn't feel like going with him, but when I was sent off by my family and Tiana this morning, Julius appeared followed by Cornelia, his attitude reading like it was only natural.

I sat on the bank behind the inn and opened the package.

When I unfolded it on my lap, it was packed with things that Tiana made, which was a little different from the daytime menu.

In the small package that came with it was that pastry. It was the same time here as over there.

It's a waste to eat it ...

The thought of not being able to eat this for another two weeks makes me want to jump on my horse right now and ride back the way I came. With Tiana in that town ... to the little life in her.

On the last day before Tiana's departure, was when a life finally came to us ... I couldn't believe it, I was soaring in disbelief and shaking with my luck, calmly thinking that I would never win another bet for the rest of my life, but it didn't matter.

Tiana hurriedly went through the process of delaying her college entrance. She told me that if it was because of her pregnancy, it would be much easier for her to pass the exam again, but I was more worried about Tiana's health and I couldn't believe that I had to leave the city at this time. I suggested, "Then I'll delay my joining too," but Tiana got angry with me with a devilish look on her face, so we decided to continue as planned.

I know.

Tiana, our child, the three of us.

In order to live happily in the future I at least have to do what I do best now.

It didn't matter if it was in front of my parents, my brother, or if Tiana's parents came out, I kept hugging her, bending down to pat her tummy,

standing up and hugging her again, and Tiana had the last laugh.

"Good luck, daddy."

Holding onto those words in my chest ... I kissed Tiana again, hugging her, bent over and stroked her stomach, and finally started off and came here.

"Hey Adele, I've been looking all over for you!"

Julius sat down next to me, and I was beyond annoyed.

"There was a delicious-looking bakery attached to the inn. I peeked in and they sold me some stuff for really cheap."

Julius, who was happily rustling the bag, was awfully lively.

"Why aren't you talking to me, Adele?"

When I talk to you, I'm reminded that I can't talk to Tiana for a long while.

In addition.

"I haven't forgiven you."

After that turmoil, I was ready to hit Julius with a single shot.

When Julius showed up to apologize a few days later, I felt like I had lost my mind.

Do people not care about others when they are satisfied?

Is this what world peace is all about?

No, that's part of it, but no.

Julius was one thing, but I was different.

I hesitated to the point where I couldn't say the right words or take the

right step, and as a result, I hurt my precious, precious love. I made her feel uneasy.

Every time I remember Tiana running through the garden that night, I'm reminded of how trashy my ... crappy pride and fear was.

**So I didn't want to hit Julius arrogantly for my sake.
In addition....**

"That's why I told you to hit me."

"If I hit you, you would be the only one who would be satisfied."

I sighed, carefully covered the box, and looked at Julius.

"You are, Julius. You're just like a rebellious child. You are like a rebellious child who is fed up with the predetermined path and the way everyone keeps looking at him as 'Cornelia-sama and Julius-sama,' but you don't have the courage to deny it outright, so you feel as if you have gained mental freedom by telling everyone that you love Tiana. It's like a rebellious child who is spoiled by his mother. Julius' eyes widened to my words and muttered, yes, yes.

"Adele is amazing. I understand."

Please stop.

"I had no idea that Cornelia thought so much of me. I thought she just adored me like an older brother, because she knows all my pathetic and weak points."

"And that's why she's accepting you, so it must be real."

"If we didn't have the pairing system, I wonder if we would have gotten along better sooner ..."

I was at a loss for words when he suddenly said something essential. That's something I've thought about too, sometimes.

"I don't know. At least we won't be able to blame the system."

"Hey Adele!"

Julius looks at me as if he has a good idea! I have a bad feeling about this.

"If the child in my house is a boy and Adele's is a girl, we could get them together!" (lol can you imagine?)

"Shut up."

"Can you imagine, what if? One day, when the pairing system is abolished, we can be forgiving in-laws!"

"I absolutely hate it. I mean, why are you assuming that ours will be a girl and yours is a boy!"

"Well, if I were my son, I'd immediately fall for Tiana's daughter ..."

"Don't be ridiculous!!!!"

As I tried to stand up, the box nearly fell off my lap, but I panicked and held it back.

I take back what I said before. I knew this guy had to take a hit. Tiana, is that okay?

Looking up, I can see the starry sky.

Above the Principality and in the great cities of the Empire. The unchanging starry sky is probably spreading.

I thought about Tiana.

I couldn't resist I knew I wanted to hug Tiana right now.

TITLE:

Hakushaku Reijou wa Kenen no Naka no Elite Kishi to Kyousei-teki ni Tsugai ni saserareru

[The count's daughter is forcibly paired to the elite knight she fights with like cat and dog.](#)

NOVEL:

[Hakushaku Reijou wa Kenen no Naka no Elite Kishi to Kyousei-teki ni Tsugai ni saserareru - Novel Updates](#)

MANGA:

[Hakushaku Reijou wa Kenen no Naka no Elite Kishi to Kyousei-teki ni Tsugai ni saserareru - Novel Updates](#)